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45p

Lib Dems stake coalition claim

Ashdown wants four posts in Labour cabinet

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY Ashdown will seek four cabinet places for Liberal Democrats in any coalition negotiations with a minority Labour government.

He believes that if any coalition government were to contain only one or two representatives from his party they would be constantly harried by sheer weight of numbers.

The Liberal Democrat leader thinks that Alan Beith, his party's economic spokesman, would make an ideal chief secretary to the Treasury. He also wants top table posts for Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, and for Menzies Campbell, his party's defence spokesman.

Mr Ashdown, who is said

by friends not to be determined on any particular role for himself, is believed to be prepared to become education secretary in a coalition cabinet. The Liberal Democrats have made education a priority throughout their campaign, emphasising their intention to put £100m income tax to pay for a £2 billion expansion. They have been rewarded by a recent poll showing that they are regarded as having a better policy on that issue than either of the two main parties.

Sources close to Mr Ashdown say he would like Sir David Steel to be offered a foreign affairs portfolio with a defence post going to Mr Campbell. The Liberal Democrat leader is not, however,

keen on suggestions in some quarters that he could become the minister for Europe, which Neil Kinnock is said to be contemplating. Colleagues say Mr Ashdown believes it is important for him to remain in the public eye, and he feels this can be best achieved if he takes a domestic ministry.

He responds to gibes from commentators that he is seeking to become the Hans-Dietrich Genscher of the British political scene (the Free Democrat politician who has been at the centre of the German coalition since 1974) by pointing out that while Herr Genscher's party gets about 7 per cent of the vote he expects to get three times that support. The implication is that he expects several cabinet jobs for his team.

Mr Ashdown is keen for his party to become involved in a full coalition rather than a pact because he believes that his MPs should gain experience in the disciplines of collective decision-making. He will also be pushing for prominent posts for Charles Kennedy, the party president, and for Malcolm Bruce, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrat party. Others whom he would expect to see in the ranks of coalition government are Jim Wallace, the chief whip, who would be closely involved in party links, and Simon Hughes and Margaret Taylor.

He will also be pushing for Lord Hobart of Cheltenham, who played a major role in drafting the Liberal Democrat manifesto, to be given a role in Northern Ireland. Robert Maclean, who was briefly leader of the SDP and a prime mover in drafting the Liberal Democrat constitution, will be the party's favoured candidate to tackle constitutional reform issues.

Under Labour's rules, Mr Kinnock must give cabinet positions to the 18 elected members of the shadow cabinet. He would also have to bring in a defence secretary and a Northern Ireland secretary since Martin O'Neill and Kevin McNamara, the party spokesmen on these subjects, are not elected members of the shadow cabinet.

Mr Kinnock would also have to appoint a Lord Chancellor and a Leader of the House of Lords. If he dropped any of the resulting 24 Labour posts to appoint Liberal Democrats, it would be likely to create considerable ructions within his party.

Any prime minister is allowed only 22 paid cabinet posts and Mr Kinnock would exceed that number even before he had created the promised cabinet posts for women and for environmental protection.

Mr Ashdown's audacity was greeted with derision in Labour circles last night, but it reflects the growing confidence in the Liberal Democrat camp that they will return to Westminster with a larger contingent of MPs than they have at present.

Until Thursday he and his shadow cabinet colleagues will stress that their policies on health, education, tackling the recession and replacing the poll tax appeal for at least two thirds of the population, and that the certain way

that suggest Labour is likely to be the largest single party after Thursday's election.

To win outright Mr Major would have to achieve a swing of opinion greater than that managed throughout a whole campaign by the Conservatives in nine of the past ten contests. Nevertheless,

Mr Kinnock, he voiced his confidence yesterday in his party winning outright.

A series of five opinion polls in yesterday's papers averaged out at Labour 39.8 per cent, Conservatives 36.9 per cent and Liberal Democrats 19 per cent. Over the week the Conservatives were down nearly two points, Labour down half and the Liberal Democrats up more than two. If the poll of polls figure was repeated on Thursday Labour would be the biggest single party in a hung parliament with 317 seats, nine short of an overall majority. The Conservatives would have 286, the Liberal Democrats 20 and others 27.

As Mr Major tried to defy electoral history, Mr Kinnock intensified his efforts to widen Labour's appeal to attract the portion of undecided voters it needs to win an overall majority.

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The nominees: Paddy Ashdown wants cabinet posts for Alan Beith, Sir David Steel and Menzies Campbell

Major tells voters not to fall on the sword of socialism

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

WITH the weekend opinion polls pointing to a minority Labour government, John Major employed his most outspoken language of the campaign last night to warn Britain not to fall on the "sword of socialism".

All three leaders issued passionate appeals. Neil Kinnock staked his call for a majority Labour government on policies that would avoid confrontation and win consensus support.

Paddy Ashdown said that voters all over the country were turning to the Liberal Democrats, and called for the widest possible support to "control the extremes of the old parties".

A new bitterness was injected into the Conservative assault on Mr Kinnock last night as Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, virtually accused him of lying over his tax pledges.

Mr Major warned a London rally of the economic and constitutional perils of a Labour victory. The unity of the United Kingdom was at risk and a Kinnock victory or "Lib-Lab" coalition would bring a United States of Europe and economic slump. In earlier interviews he told the electorate it could not afford a protest vote and should not "sleepwalk" on Thursday.

The graphic tenor of Mr Major's language set the tone for the campaign's last phase and underlined his determination in the face of polls

that suggest Labour is likely to be the largest single party after Thursday's election.

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Lights, action, it's Gorby the movie star

FROM WILLIAM CASH
IN LOS ANGELES

MIKHAIL Gorbachev's choice of Los Angeles as the first stop of his American tour early next month has raised speculation in Hollywood that the former Soviet president has plans to develop his new career as a movie star.

The entertainment trade newspaper, *Variety*, last week reported that Mr Gorbachev appears in a small but crucial part in Wim Wenders' *In Weiter Ferne, So Nah (So Far and Yet So Near)*, the long-awaited sequel to *Wings of Desire*. In the film, starring Bruno Ganz, the hero continues his Dante-like role as an angel who lands on Earth, as in *Wings* — only this time he meets his saviour, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Gorbachev, who is understood to have seen *Wings* on video and is a fan of Wenders' work, decided to pursue his new screen role during a visit to Ger-

many last month. Originally Wenders had intended to have Mr Gorbachev decline text adapted from his bestselling autobiography.

No stranger to the camera, or the demands of professional acting, the former president disposed of the written script and improvised the footage in just four takes. However, his melancholic outpourings on the "meaning of life" and his "relationship with Fyodor Dostoevsky", shot in a Munich hotel, could also mark his debut in *Pseudos' Corcoran Wenders*, in a written statement, applauded Mr Gorbachev for his "superior professionalism".

Although Mr Gorbachev's fee for the film has not been disclosed, agents and publishers in Tinseltown are lining up to sign the former president. A spokesman for one of the best known theatrical agencies said: "With the right sort of marketing, Gorbachev could become an extremely hot property — he could earn

even more from films than touring on the \$30,000-a-night lecture circuit."

The focus of the visit by Mr Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, to Los Angeles will be a reunion of former presidents. On Sunday, May 3, the Gorbachevs will be guests of honour at the Reagans' Rancho del Cielo in Santa Barbara, California. Ronald Reagan said last week: "I have long hoped to show Mikhail the true American West. He has heard me speak of its beauty for many years. I look forward to taking him to the ranch that is so dear to Nancy and me."

The visit will also mark the official opening of the Ronald Reagan Centre for Public Affairs based at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley — close to the favored location of hundreds of Hollywood Westerns in the 1940s and 1950s. Mr Gorbachev is to receive the first "Ronald Reagan Freedom Award".



Gorbachev: no stranger to the camera



Family backing: Neil Kinnock with his son Stephen at the Labour party's celebrity reception in Millbank, London, last night

Underdogs head to Cup final

BY JOHN GOODBOY

SUNDERLAND became the first team from the second division to reach the FA Cup final for 12 years when they beat Norwich City 1-0 at Hillsborough yesterday. Their opponents have yet to be decided because, though they were beaten by the semi-finalists, Liverpool drew 1-1 with Portsmouth, also of the second division.

John Byrne kept up his record of scoring in every round of the competition when he got the decisive goal at Hillsborough, which was

staging its first semi-final since the 1989 disaster. Police later praised the behaviour of the fans.

For seven minutes at Highbury, it looked as if Portsmouth could be in the final at Wembley on May 9. After a goalless 90 minutes, Darren Anderton gave Portsmouth the lead in extra time. With three minutes left, Ronny Whelan equalised. The replay will be at Villa Park on April 13.

Nigel Mansell, of Britain, completed a hat-trick of victories in the opening three Grands Prix of the Formula One season when he led his Williams team-mate, Riccardo Patrese, home in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Mansell now has 30 points, with Patrese on 18.

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Mansell triumph, page 30

Iran bombs rebel camps in Iraq

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA
AND MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON

RELATIONS between Iran and Iraq were at their lowest yesterday since the end of the eight-year war in 1988, following a bombing raid by Iranian F4 Phantoms on camps inside Iraq used by mujahedin rebels opposed to the Tehran regime.

Bahrain radio claimed Iraqi anti-aircraft guns shot down one of eight Iranian Phantoms and captured its two crewmen. The Iranian air force in Piccadilly. Three people were arrested but there were no injuries.

The bombing raid inside Iraq, five days before parliamentary elections in Iran, was the first Iranian air strike on Iraqi territory since a UN-brokered ceasefire on August 20, 1988, and the most serious clash since March last year. The two former enemies have yet to sign a formal peace treaty.

Tehran said the raid was in retaliation for a mujahedin attack on two Iranian border villages on Saturday. Iran's official Iranian news agency, said mujahedin forces had crossed the border near the town of Qasr-e-Shahin, killing, wounding and kidnapping an unspecified number of villagers.

The F4 bombed a mujahedin base at Ashraf, near the town of Khalis, 31 miles inside Iraq and 40 miles north of Baghdad. An Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman in Baghdad described the raids as "a blatant and unjustified aggression" and issued vague threats of retaliation. "Iraq warns the reckless Iranian regime of the consequences of this impudent, aggressive act and holds it fully responsible for the grave consequences," the official said.

The breakdown in relations
Continued on page 20, col 1

Later a petrol bomb was

thrown at the Iranian air office in Piccadilly.

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Housing scheme for mentally ill held up by funding dispute

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

BUREAUCRATIC and financial wrangling has delayed part of the initiative to provide permanent housing for mentally ill people living rough in London.

More than 750 sheltered units are planned in London under the health department scheme, first announced two years ago by Stephen Dorrell, the junior health minister. The scheme is due to cost more than £20 million after fresh funds were pledged in January. A quarter were expected to open by the end of last month, but building has yet to begin because of disagreement over funding of

the management and care costs involved in running the homes.

An umbrella group representing the homeless and mentally ill, and involving Mind and Shelter, has said that, unless funding for the running costs is agreed, most of the 1,100 homeless in London requiring psychiatric care will not be housed.

The Housing Corporation, which regulates London housing associations, has agreed to fund the building of the new units, intended for people ready to move out of specialist short-term hostels. But it has refused to begin

work because of the uncertainty over running costs, the umbrella group says.

The corporation is understood to have asked the environment department, which funds it to intervene to resolve the deadlock.

Health department officials, however, say that there is nothing to resolve and the running costs were always intended to be the responsibility of local authorities in the capital. A spokesman said that it was up to the authorities and the corporation to sort out the situation.

Local authorities have said that they cannot meet the extra costs, which the health department wants to come out of their own budgets, combined with a grant awarded last year for dealing with the mentally ill in their boroughs.

The environment department said yesterday that there had been a meeting between officials to discuss funding two weeks ago, where it had been agreed that the health department would be responsible.

Within the Housing Corporation, there seems to be disagreement about how to proceed. One source said that the scheme should not go ahead until the funding for running costs was agreed. Another claimed that building would start soon, with or without the funding issue resolved.

Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter, said that the continuing wrangling could jeopardise the scheme. The aim is, by August, London's homeless should be covered by four teams of mental health outreach workers and have six short-term hostels. If the permanent flats, supported by psychiatric workers, were not running soon, Shelter said, those hostels would be filled and people would end up back on the streets.

The charity, which provides information and training for ethnic minorities, the elderly, the unemployed and other disadvantaged groups, has no guarantee of further funding. Judy Robinson, general secretary, said: "We will try to raise extra cash but that is difficult because everybody else is doing that."

The charity is funded by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, which had been planning to reduce its grant to £98,000 this year. The association recently restored £50,000 after a campaign supported by the Labour MP David Blunkett.

The organisation is one of many voluntary groups facing closure because of cuts in local authority spending, according to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.



Local hero: trainer Nick Gaselee toasts his new charge, admired by visitor Nick McDermott, aged six

Aintree winner given a place in the party political spotlight

Party Politics' dashing Grand National win is being seen as a symbolic charge of the Right brigade, Richard Evans reports

Party Politics won the Nationals; the Conservatives will win the election." Mrs Chaplin said.

But in spite of the blue roses and the many makeshift placards hammering home the political theme, most of those present seemed to take to heart one particular slogan, which read:

"Never mind the politics, let's have the party."

Champagne corks started popping as Party Politics finally reached home shortly before midday. "I want the village to enjoy themselves and everybody to have a bit of fun," Nick Gaselee said.

"My horses have not been right since Christmas due to

one or two niggling problems. You cannot believe it is going to come right in a race like this with a horse named like this."

David Stoddart, who sold Party Politics for £80,000 last Thursday, and Andrew Adams, who missed the ride due to injury, put a brave face on things.

"I feel slightly sorry for myself, but I am absolutely thrilled he won. I can't have any regrets because I have had a Grand National winner," Mr Stoddart said. "I feel sorry for Andrew."

Mr Adams, aged 27, plagued by injuries over the past three years, said: "I was a bit shattered when Party

Jockeys' verdict, page 26

National library rations flow of Joycean secrets

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA



Stephen Joyce concerned for family's privacy

his patron, Harriet Weaver. But academic speculation is more likely to focus on the papers which have been withheld from public scrutiny at the request of Joyce's family.

Catherine Fahy, a librarian at the National Library, said that there was little of literary interest in the documents unveiled yesterday. "We have embargoed the release of some papers until the year 2050 at the request of Stephen Joyce."

The embargoed letters, about a dozen in number, are believed to be of a personal nature. Stephen Joyce is

known to be sensitive about his family's privacy and in 1988 announced that he had destroyed love letters between his grandparents.

Joyce enthusiasts expecting insights into the author's relationship with Samuel Beckett, who accompanied him to Vichy when he left Paris, will be disappointed by the new papers, which suggest only that some of his associates could not master the future Nobel laureate's name. Beckett is referred to variously in the correspondence as "Mr Beckett", "Fan Beckett" and "Sean Beckett".

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Christie's takes late delivery

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEMORE CORRESPONDENT

Chiltern line tops BR efficiency table

BY DOUGLAS BROOM

THE refurbished Chiltern line from Marylebone to Banbury, which until two years ago was a byword for inefficiency, has emerged top of British Rail's internal performance league. During evening peak hours in the week ending March 20, every train on the line arrived at its destination within the five minutes of the scheduled target set by the passenger's charter.

For the whole of March,

94.3 per cent of trains ran on time, significantly higher than the 88 per cent target set for it in the charter.

During morning peak hours, 88.2 per cent of trains arrived on time, 95.2 per cent arrived within five minutes of scheduled time and only 1.1 per cent were cancelled.

Christie's hopes to spark a craze in which walls and mantelpieces are enhanced with blue and white painted porcelain.

Now valued at at least £1.5 million, bringing to mind the East India Company warehouse that should have received the consignment three centuries ago.

Christie's hopes to spark a craze in which walls and mantelpieces are enhanced with blue and white painted porcelain.

Yesterday a solemn delegation of six from the communist Vietnamese government, which spotted an enterprising means of making hard cash, mingled with the crowds.

The line, refurbished at a cost of £75 million, is the flagship of Network South East's modernisation drive and is the proving ground for the Networker trains which will become the standard rolling stock for the region into the next century. Only 30 of the line's 39 two-coach and three-coach trains have so far been delivered and Mr Fearn said that he expected punctuality to improve when the full number came into service in May.

The new trains were due to enter service last May, but late deliveries by BREL, the privatised train builder, meant that their introduction was delayed until January. Until the refurbishment, the line was renowned for its inefficiency, with regular breakdowns of the 30-year-old fleet of diesel trains, late running and cancellations.

British Rail originally planned to close Marylebone and turn it into a coach park.

Mr Fearn said: "We are very proud of the performance we had achieved in spite of the line lacking its full complement of new Network Turbo trains.

Lawyers attack scandal of police cells

The number of unconvicted prisoners held in police cells, which has risen by half since January, is "scandalous", a report by the Law Society says today. (Frances Gibb writes).

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, has already described the numbers on January 30 as "unacceptable", the society says. Yet since then they had risen 50 per cent to 1,840, the highest total for more than six months and nearly double the average daily total last year.

Roger Ede, secretary of the Law Society's criminal law committee, said: "The cost of keeping prisoners in police cells in 1991 is estimated to be £85 million. This is £68 million more than it would have cost to keep them in prison, likely to rise in 1992 to more than £100 million."

The prisoners, who are on remand and therefore presumed innocent, were held in "squalid and humiliating conditions, worse than those of sentenced prisoners". Despite a call in January on the government by a joint group of police, prison, magistrates' courts and probation staff associations, lawyers and doctors, for action to end the holding of such prisoners in police cells, the situation had worsened, he said.

Rail drivers to beat pilot pay

British Rail drivers working on the Channel tunnel line are to earn up to £24,000 a year, making them better paid than some airline pilots. Eleven recruits are being trained, and another 85, with five years' experience, are being sought.

Len Muir, of European Passenger Services, set up by British Rail for the tunnel link, said: "We are offering conditions and work that will be the *crème de la crème*." Balpa, the airline union, said that the maximum pay for many turboprop pilots was £23,500 after 11 years.

Chat silenced

Chatlines face disconnection at noon today after their failure to raise £60,000 for a fund aimed at compensating telephone owners struggling with huge bills after their lines had been cut without their permission. Since the Ofcom deadline was issued a month ago, a modest contribution has been made by only one chatline company. A few chatlines have already stopped operating.

Cave rescue

An injured caver was hauled up from 150ft underground by ropes and pulleys after he fell and broke his leg. The man, in his forties and from the West Midlands, was with three others when he slipped in caves at Joyford, Gloucestershire. Two of the men climbed to the surface to raise the alarm. The injured man was detained in hospital.

Crossword finalists go through

BY JOHN GRANT
CROSSWORD EDITOR

A PART-TIME school secretary from New Barnet, north London, was champion solver at the London B regional final of The Times InterCity crossword championship at the Park Lane Hilton yesterday.

Anne Bradford, aged 61, compiler of the *Longman Crossword Solvers Dictionary*, completed the four puzzles in an average of 12 minutes each. Only three of the 272 competitors completed all four puzzles correctly.

Peter Biddlecombe, aged 31, a computer programmer from Palmers Green, north London, and Derek Jervis, aged 65, a teacher from Barnet, came second and third. Brian Sylvester, aged 59, a stamp dealer from Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Roy Dean, aged 65, a writer and broadcaster from Bromley, southeast London, also qualified.

Five qualifiers at the London B regional final on Saturday join them at the national final at the Hilton on July 26: winner Neil McHale, aged 35, from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire; David Clarke, aged 41, from Isleworth, west London; David Burn, aged 35, from Putney, southwest London; Alastair Bruce, aged 44, from Barnes, southwest London and Alan Mills, aged 40, from Putney.

Crossword, page 20

All-singing, all-dancing shows set all-black record

It's boom time for black actors in London, reports Simon Tait

director. The theatre has been in financial difficulty, but the musical's run of over a year has brought solvency and, with a new cast, it is booking now until the end of July.

"We are getting two thirds capacity over a week, which means full houses on Thursday, Friday and Saturday," Andrew Leigh, the Old Vic's administrator, said. "I believe we have found a new audience — it is immediately discernible by the

number of black faces, and it has been a delightful discovery."

Integrated casting is a policy of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, where the use of black actors in the 18th century George Farquhar play, *The Recruiting Officer*, baffled some members of the audience. The policy is in line with Equity's guidance, drawn up last November, for aiming at fully integrated casts by choosing performers on ability regardless of racial appearance.

"We're very happy that black performers are getting work in the West End, but the *Sikulu* cast are South Africans, and we are concerned for black British artists," Peter Finch, deputy general secre-

tary of Equity, said. "They have a ten-week agreement and we would hope that if the show goes on after that some of the cast might be replaced by British performers."

Talawa Theatre is a black ensemble dedicated to serious black theatre but made a surprise success with a production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* with an all-black cast. In December it took over the Cochrane Theatre, Holborn, as the country's first purpose-built black theatre. Yvonne Webster, Talawa's artistic director does not believe that the success of black musicals is necessarily good for black theatre. "It's the old American can thing — entertainment for white people," she said.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA. (Charity Reg. No. 23123)

An Easter Message

During the long winter the comfort you gave our gravely ill patients was unforgettable. We warmly wish you a happy and hopeful Easter.

Sister Superior.

WITH the opening of *Sikulu* at the Queen's tomorrow, West End theatres will have an unprecedented number of all-black shows, with up to 135 performers.

Already running are the award-winning *Five Guys Named Moe* at the Lyric, Turnstyle's production of *Carmen Jones* at the Old Vic which has been nominated for seven Olivier Awards, and *The Cotton Club*, based on the black New York night club of the 1930s, which opened at the Aldwych in January.

Sikulu is an African song and dance production by the creators of *Ipi Tombe* which was an acclaimed box office success in London, running for two years in the 1970s. The new show has a cast of 33

black South Africans telling the story of a young Zulu warrior who leaves his village to find his father in Johannesburg. It has toured in Italy, Ireland, The Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, France, Belgium, Spain and Germany since opening in South Africa in 1990.

Roger Filer, chief executive of Stoll Moss Theatres at whose Queen's theatre *Sikulu* will open, was smitten by it when he saw the show in Dublin. "It has all the effervescence and vitality of *Ipi Tombe* and we have enormous hopes for it." *Carmen Jones*, directed by Simon Callow, signalled the Old Vic's move away from being a producing house after the departure of Jonathan Miller as artistic

JOYCE IN TIPS

Lawyers attack scandal of police cells

See page 1

Three killed as train hits car on crossing

BY RAY CLANCY

TWO sisters and a man died when their car was hit by a train on an unmanned level crossing at the weekend. Two others were seriously injured.

Witnesses said the driver apparently ignored red warning lights and swerved round a lowered half-barrier. The dead were Marie Garbutt, aged 26, her sister Louise, aged 21, and Neville Swales, aged 27.

The women's brother Peter Garbutt, aged 26, and Trevor Turner, aged 22, were seriously injured when the car in which the five were travelling was hit by a train at Moorside, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, on Saturday. The two injured men

were last night in a stable condition in the intensive care unit of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. All five were from Moorside and had known each other since childhood.

Their car, a Ford Capri, was hit by the 11.46 Goole to Doncaster train and shunted 60 metres down the line, rolling over several times. Those who died were all thrown from the vehicle. The survivors were trapped in the wreckage and cut free by fire-fighters.

Oliver Davis, a resident of the village who saw the accident, said that double barriers would have prevented it happening. "We saw the train was coming when the car appeared and swerved around the barrier, which was down," she said. "I have seen other drivers go round the barriers in the past."

An examination of the crossing showed that the barriers, warning signals and lights had been working normally. There has been a history of people using the gaps in the barriers, left to prevent anyone being trapped across the railway tracks, to zig-zag over the crossing in spite of warning lights.

British Rail inspectors are investigating the accident, the fifth this year at unnamed level crossings. Concern was voiced about half-barriers last month when a father and his son, aged four, were killed and five members of their family injured when their van was hit by a train at Fulbourn, Cambridge.

British Rail is convinced that half-barrier unmanned level crossings are safe. "These sort of barriers are much safer than the old style manned barriers because there is no chance of human error. Obviously we are relying on people's good sense to use the barriers properly," a spokesman said. British Rail installs barriers according to criteria

laid down by the transport department.

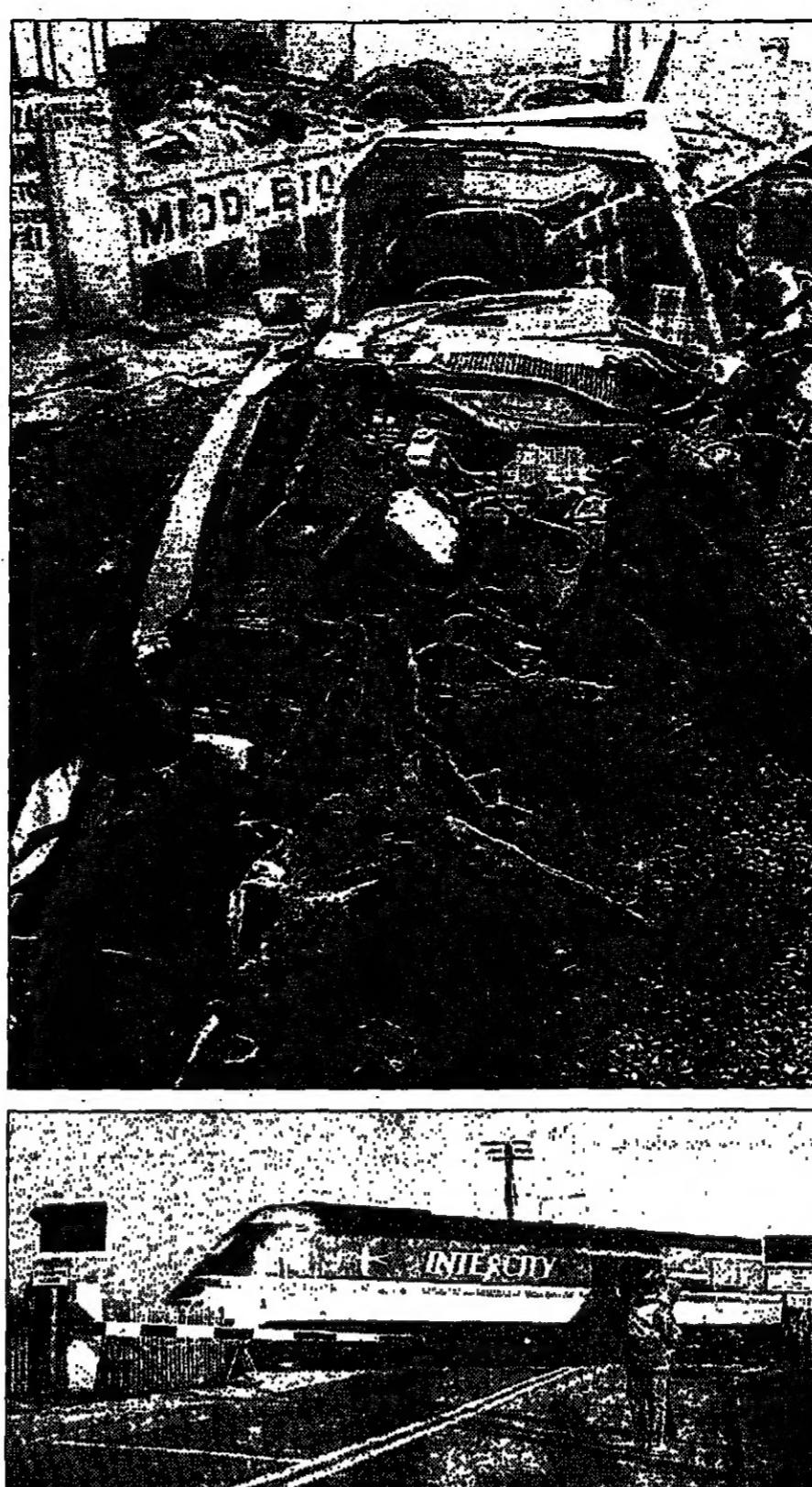
A survey of the number of trains using a particular line, their speed and frequency is carried out. The number of vehicles using a crossing is also examined. If British Rail inspectors voice concern about safety, a review is undertaken.

A Whitehall source said: "The number of accidents is causing concern. It may be the number of trains using a line has increased or the amount of road vehicles using a crossing has risen. That could lead to a change in the type of crossing at a particular location. In general terms there is pressure for half-barriers to be replaced with double ones in areas where use has increased."

Half barriers are more common than more expensive double barriers. Generally double barriers are found where busy roads cross fast sections of track and in towns and cities.

Pressure for double barriers to be increased could be resisted on safety grounds. British Rail is looking at France, where SNCF, the national rail concern, is considering replacing double barriers with half barriers because of the increasing number of accidents where vehicles cross through one side of a double barrier but find the opposite side is down. They cannot reverse because the barrier behind has also come down leaving the vehicle trapped.

The transport department said it would wait for the result of the BR enquiry into the latest accident before making any decision whether to review the criteria. The most recent figures show that in 1990 23 people died and 23 were injured in 69 level crossing accidents. In most cases trains are not derailed and passengers are not hurt.



Crash wreckage: the car, top, which was shunted 60 metres down the track after being hit by a Goole to Doncaster InterCity train, bottom

Rail drivers beat pilot pay

A TAMIL prisoner convicted of murder was continuing his hunger strike last night despite a decision by the Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to allow an independent enquiry into his case.

Sam Kulasingham, aged 35, is critically ill in Hammersmith hospital, west London. He started his fast 55 days ago and has always maintained his innocence. He was convicted four years ago on a majority verdict of a firebomb attack on a house in east London in which three men died.

Another man, Prem Sivalingham, was also convicted but three others were discharged after the judge ruled there was no case against them. Kulasingham's appeal was dismissed on February 11 and he immediately began his fast.

Last week the Metropolitan police carried out initial enquiries into claims of new evidence. On Saturday, Mr Baker ordered a full enquiry. John Smith, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police, then asked Chief Super Keith Southgate, of Essex police, to carry out the investigation.

The new evidence is understood to point to a conspiracy against Kulasingham who was sentenced to life imprisonment. At his trial in 1988 the prosecution said that the firebombing was the result of gang warfare involving two groups of Tamils. New statements from Tamils appear to indicate that two men who had shared a house with Kulasingham were put under pressure to incriminate him.

Veteran tenor bridges the generation gap 30 years on



THE legendary Irish tenor Josef Locke, whose velvet voice and eye for the ladies made him the Tom Jones of post-war Britain, has become the oldest singer to break into the Top Ten at the age of 75.

Today Mr Locke, whose compilation of old 78s was recorded for EMI in the decade from 1947, will celebrate his entry in the best-selling album charts with his usual three pints of Guinness in a corner of a smoky pub in the wilds of Co Kildare.

At his home in the village of Clane yesterday he said: "It's unbelievable, that's the only way I can describe it. I'm flabbergasted. At my age! Even Frank Sinatra would be pleased with

A post-war Irish tenor is challenging the giants of pop, reports Michael Horsnell

that, wouldn't he?" The CD and cassette album *Hear My Song — The Best of Josef Locke*, featuring *'I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen'*, *Count Your Blessings* and *Hear My Song Violet*, is proving to be unexpected competition for the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Simply Red, Madness and Wet Wet Wet.

Mr Locke, who says he will not be tempted out of retirement by the offer of lucrative concerts at Carnegie Hall, New York, and the Festival Hall, London, is nevertheless planning to record a new single and make the occasional appearance. His re-emergence into the limelight follows the release of the film about his life *Hear My Song* starring Ned Beatty, in the United States, where it was praised by Madonna and in London.

Mr Locke was feted last month at the British premiere where he sang *Danny Boy* before the Princess of Wales, the song he performed at a Royal Command Performance in 1952, before he was whisked away by Michael Aspel to appear in *This Is Your Life*. Devotees of the former Irish Guardsman, who was earning

£2,000 a week in his heyday before fleeing home to Ireland from the taxman after a demand for £17,000 in 1958, say his voice is as strong as ever.

Mr Locke said that he sat at the piano half-an-hour a day. "Maybe the top mezzo-soprano notes may not be quite what they were but everything else is working well and I still love singing. But success doesn't tempt me to come out of retirement. I don't like living out of a suitcase."

Mr Locke is to be presented with a silver disc for selling 60,000 copies of *Hear My Song*. EMI is to release two of his songs on a 78 rpm, believed to be the first 12in record of its kind produced in over 30 years.

BA pushes for better customer service

BY KERRY GILL

TWO English climbers did the only sensible thing after falling 500ft down a mountain in the Cairngorms: they nipped along to the nearest telephone box and told the police.

Richard Hartshorn and Trevor Cousins suffered no more than minor cuts and bruises and some dizziness after they fell off a ridge on The Runnel, an ice-climbing peak on Cairn Gorm, into an embankment covered in soft snow. After picking themselves up, they set off to raise the alarm at a ski car park about two miles away, and 700ft below. They were helped by other climbers who came across them on their way to the telephone box.

Sergeant John Grierson, of Aviemore police, recalled a similar case last year when a climber fell several hundred feet in the same area and survived. "It must be a very lucky spot," he said.

Mr Hartshorn, aged 30, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Mr Cousins, aged 27, of Sherburn, Co Durham, were picked up by a helicopter scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth. They were taken to the Aviemore medical centre where they were found to have no serious injury. They spent the night camping outside making their way home yesterday.

Sergeant Grierson, who met them at the ski centre, said: "They were in good spirits and knew they had had a lucky escape. I would say they are extremely fortunate to be alive. If you fall 5ft in that area, you would be lucky to come away with the injuries they did."

Two men missing on Ben Nevis were rescued yesterday after climbers with a portable telephone reported their location to police. The missing men, both English, had been trapped on the Hadrian's Wall rockface, which leads to the summit, for almost 24 hours. They were uninjured.

Girl injured

A girl aged nine suffered multiple head injuries when she was hit by a wheel that flew off a stock-car at a race meeting at Walsoken stadium in Cambridgeshire. The wheel bounced over the crash barriers before striking Charlene Kingston, who lives in the nearby village of Coates. Last night she was in a stable but critical condition in hospital at King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Howard rallies

Frankie Howard is continuing to improve in spite of having "severe impairment of the functioning of the heart", according to the Harley Street Clinic, London, where the comedian, aged 70, is being treated. Peter Goddard, the clinic's director of operations, said yesterday: "He is sitting up in bed and joking... enjoying the hundreds of messages he has received from well-wishers."

Police blamed

Edward Daly, the Bishop of Londonderry, said at the funeral of a Catholic man killed by loyalist gunmen in Northern Ireland that police harassment had been a factor in the murder. Dr Daly said that there was clear evidence that Danny Cassidy, aged 42, had suffered "constant, cruel and public harassment and humiliation from some units of the police" and this had put his life in danger.

Joyriding case

Four youths, aged 17 to 22, will appear at Steyning magistrates court in West Sussex on May 6 in the first case under the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992, introduced in response to concern over joyriding.

Jilly Cooper's Word Processor?

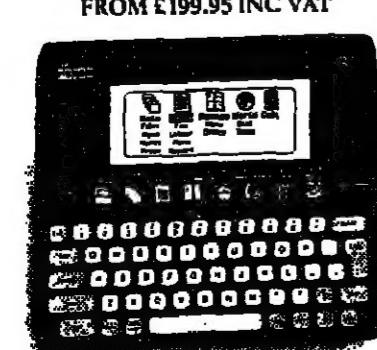
We'd love to think that Jilly Cooper, one of the country's top selling novelists, uses a Psion Series 3. Truth is, it's so new, we doubt if she's even seen it yet. And it is so amazingly advanced, neither Jilly nor you will have seen anything like it before. Ever.

It's just a whisker over 6" x 3" x 1/4".

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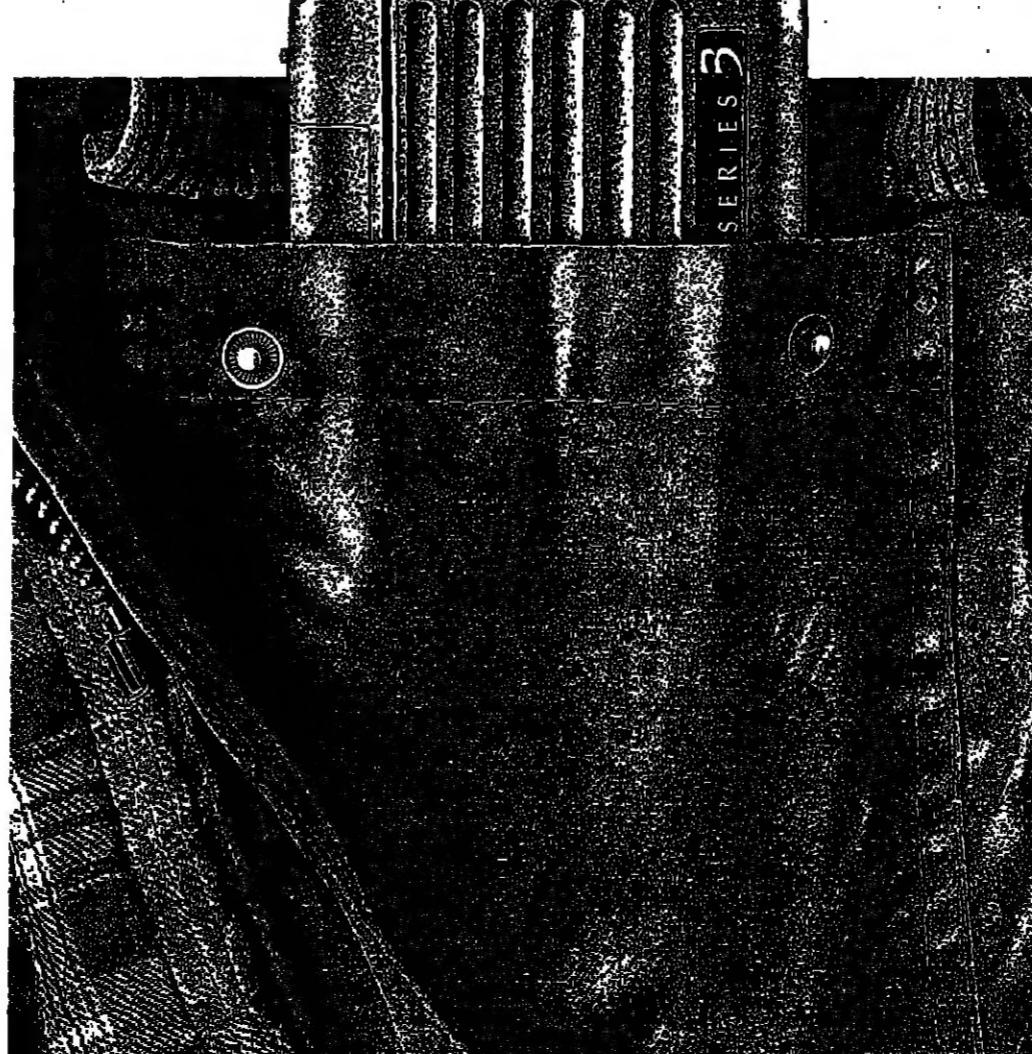
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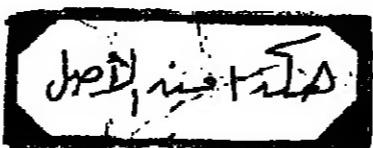
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Debt-ridden students borrow more as jobs vanish

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

STUDENTS are being forced to take out loans by the pressure of personal debt and the scarcity of holiday work, according to a survey published today by the National Union of Students.

The loan system was introduced to offset the impact of inflation, the withdrawal of benefits from students, and the freezing of the grant in 1990. The report suggests that many students are taking up loans as a panic measure to stave off debt.

Of those who intended to take out a loan last October, a third reported debts of more than £500 and 15 per cent owed more than £1,000. Only 18 per cent of those without debts planned to make use of the loan system. However, 86 per cent of those who owed between £500 and £1,000 said that they would need a loan. The maximum available last year was £650 in London and £580 elsewhere, and increased by 25 per cent last month.

Stephen Twigg, president of the union, said: "This shows once and for all that student loans are not increasing in popularity. The increased uptake is purely the result of desperation on the part of students who have less and less to live on. They need a grant that increases in line with the cost of living."

Sixty-two per cent of the

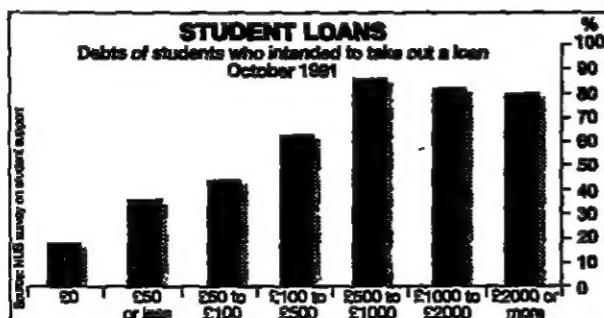
2,300 students replying to the survey were in debt by the end of the academic year 1990-1. Twenty-seven per cent had debts of more than £500, while 11 per cent owed more than £1,000.

The level of debt among students dropped only marginally over the summer, reflecting the decline in readily available holiday work, the report says. More than a third were unemployed last summer and, in some areas, such as Scotland, Wales and the West Midlands, the proportion of students finding work was 3 per cent or less.

Those who found jobs were paid an average of £3.63 an hour, or £90 a week, for nine weeks during the 14-week vacation. Thirty-six per cent of respondents said that they had worked during term time, an increase of 12 per cent since 1989-90.

The survey is likely to fuel debate about the level of financial support available to students. Angela Crum Ewing, president of the Association of University Teachers, said that the new findings were shocking. "Students have never had a cushy time, but now they face hardship on an appalling scale. Study should be the priority, not a struggle for survival."

Education Times
LET section, page 7



Special delivery: Val Cooper, who was named Midwife of the Year yesterday, plays in Hyde Park with Imogen Robertson, aged 15 months, whom she helped to deliver. Mrs Cooper was nominated for the award by Imogen's mother

Deborah, of Rochester, Kent. She said: "I was going to have the baby at home, but there were complications, and she arranged for me to go to hospital, and stayed with me through to the end of a very long day — 17 hours — without any

thought of going off duty." Mrs Cooper, aged 47, of Rainham, Kent, has delivered more than 800 babies over 25 years, including one by torchlight after a hospital power cut and a generator failure. She wins £1,000 for herself and

£250 for Rochester health centre, where she is based. The award was made in London by Maternity & Mothercraft magazine and the baby products company Gripeight, in association with the Royal College of Midwives.

MI5 vies with police for anti-IRA operations

A HOME Office report on the future of intelligence gathering against terrorism goes to Downing Street on Thursday amid speculation in the intelligence community that MI5 could take over the work of the police.

The report has been drawn up by the civil servant heading the Home Office's police department, which encompasses the security service and the police. The report follows nearly four months of negotiations and lobbying.

Scotland Yard has been supported by chief constables while MI5 is thought to have the tacit support of the Ministry of Defence. Stella Rimington, the new director

much of which is concerned with the IRA. The Yard's special branch was set up over a hundred years ago to combat the Fenians.

For its part, the security service has been trying to find new roles for its manpower since the collapse of the communist bloc. Like many intelligence services around the world, its officers are turning towards areas such as terrorism or, one day perhaps, drugs trafficking.

Scotland Yard has been supported by chief constables while MI5 is thought to have the tacit support of the Ministry of Defence. Stella Rimington, the new director

Who should control the anti-terrorist fight? The Home Office may propose changes, reports Stewart Tendler

general of MI5, could also lobby within Downing Street and the Cabinet Office because her service reports directly to the prime minister.

If MI5 wins the argument, its London offices would become the clearing house for anti-terrorist intelligence, making use of the service's skills of threat assessment and strategy developed in the

past 70 years against the Nazis and the Eastern bloc. MI5 has considerable expertise in running double agents and penetrating enemy organisations. The change will be tempting to politicians who feel that new measures are needed to fight a reorganised IRA, which has run a successful mainland campaign for three years.

The police argue that MI5 is publicly unaccountable and does not understand the demands of courts for background evidence. Officers say courts are increasingly supposing defence arguments for the disclosure of evidence, which could include electronic surveillance and intelligence material.

MI5 does now have a role in Ulster but the RUC and the army do most of the intelligence gathering. The possibility of giving the task to MI5 has been promoted by the argument that the fight against the IRA should be more co-ordinated by a central authority rather than one police force.

The police could argue that forces have worked much more closely in recent years than in the past. Critics of the police have sometimes accused them of relying on crude strategies rather than sophisticated analysis.

Daffodils prove too plentiful

The town of Abergavenny in Gwent has upset bureaucrats at the Welsh Office by planting too many daffodils.

Thousands of the flowers adorn Hardwick roundabout at Abergavenny, known as the Gateway to Wales. They have been planted there to help to attract tourists.

Hugh Candler, chairman of the town's In Bloom committee, said he was astounded at being told by a Welsh Office representative on a site visit that there needed to be more wild flowers and shrubs. "He said there were too many daffodils in Wales."

Damp squib

Naval security officers are examining secret Russian military papers found washed ashore in an explosive briefcase by a man walking his dog near Newport, Dyfed. Devices inside failed to detonate when Tony Bee, of Fishguard, kicked the case open.

Family acts

Relatives of Albert Dryden, jailed for murdering a council official supervising the demolition of his bungalow in Co Durham, have begun to pull down the building.

Husband freed

Police investigating the murder of Jacqueline Palmer, whose body was found last week by her son at their home in Eversley, Hampshire, have released without charge her estranged husband, Werner.

Whale death

National History Museum staff are to carry out an autopsy on a minke whale washed ashore at Musselburgh, Lothian.

Light of life

Reflectors have been fitted on the A380 Exeter to Torquay road to deter deer at night.

Bond winners

The weekly premium bond winners are £100,000, number 34 BS 977956, winner lives in Islington, London, value of holding £3,200; £50,000, 3STL 147007, Staffordshire (£10,000); £25,000, 36DN 926384, Lambeth, London (£10,000).

Even if you think a metronome would travel half price on the French underground, you'll still enjoy the BBC Young Musician of the Year Finals.



You don't need to find a babysitter. There's no need for a last minute dash to Sketchley's with the DJ. No obligation to buy expensive concert programmes.

Because tonight you can have the best seats in the house for the Finals. Simply tune into BBC 2 at 7.30pm, where you'll see the Final for Piano.

It's followed on consecutive evenings by those for Wind, Brass and Strings.

The winners of each individual class will then take part in the climax of the Lloyds Bank sponsored competition: the Concerto Final. That too will be televised next Saturday. And once again all the seats are free.



Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Defence ministry studies contract bids

Private schools to train military pilots

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ELEMENTARY flying training for RAF and Royal Navy recruits is to be privatised. Bids by commercial companies are being studied, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday.

Recruits, some without any previous air experience, are at present given a flying course in Chipmunks and Bulldog light aircraft before progressing to basic training as military pilots, using turbo-prop Tucano trainers. The navy's elementary flying training is carried out at Linton-on-Ouse, North Yorkshire, and the RAF's school is at Swindon, Lincolnshire.

The ministry believes that this first layer of training can be performed more cost-effectively by commercial flying schools. The contract will be worth several million pounds.

The Oxford air training school, the largest private flying organisation in the country, and two other commercial schools, one in Prestwick,

near Ayr, the other in Perth, are known to have put forward bids. The ministry requested tenders earlier this year and bids had to be in by the end of February.

The elementary flying course at Swindon consists of 65 flying hours in a Chipmunk. Any RAF recruit who has flown fewer than 60 hours has to go through the course. Graduates, who usually fly about 100 hours in the university air squadrons, go directly into basic training with Tucanos. Navy trainees fly in Bulldogs. Their course is administered by the air force.

The new move is part of the ministry's programme to introduce better value for money in the armed forces' support services. Naval target towing, in which targets are pulled along by aircraft to be shot down by warships, is already carried out by a commercial company.

An increase in privatised services is expected after the appointment of Christopher Littmoden, finance director of Marks & Spencer, as a part-time adviser at the ministry. He has been asked to examine which other services might be run more effectively by private companies. Mr Littmoden, who has just taken up his new duties, is expected to stay at the ministry for about six months, working two days a week.

• The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards have paid a farewell visit to the town where the regiment was founded more than 300 years ago. It is being amalgamated under the government's army cuts with the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards to form the Royal Dragoon Guards.

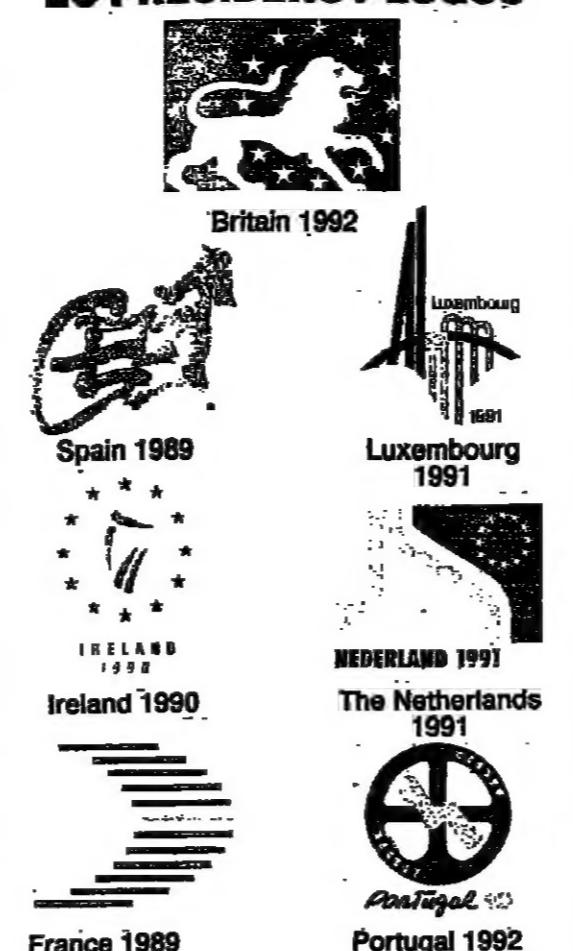
Yesterday the regiment marched with fixed bayonets through Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, to lay up their colours in St McCarran's cathedral. The Inniskilling Dragoons were founded in 1669 for the defence of Enniskillen against James II.

You probably already have a family. If you don't, perhaps you should start one. Or at least borrow a friend's.

The reason? The launch of the new Mazda 626. A family car that isn't dull. An exciting car that isn't small.

In fact, it has the biggest floor area in its class, and three can sit comfortably in the back, complete with teddy bears.

EC PRESIDENCY LOGOS



Picture puzzles: Britain's Rory leaves little to the imagination, but Luxembourg, France, The Netherlands and Portugal all appear to have resorted to mystic symbolism

Rory roars into EC office for Britain

By ALAN HAMILTON

BRITAIN assumes the presidency of the EC in July, but has already fulfilled its first obligation: the production of the obligatory logo.

Rory the Lion, chosen from numerous efforts submitted by design consultancies and named by the nine-year-old winner of a children's television competition, has cost the foreign office £15,000 to develop.

It regards the exercise as "an opportunity to convey a clear message — a strong symbol of Britain in the Community", while Douglas Hunt described Rory as "a lively, intelligent lion at the heart of Europe".

Compared with other efforts, the British logo is a model of uncompromising clarity. The Portuguese, present holders of the presidency, produced a logo that looks suspiciously like a pre-war Volkswagen steering wheel overlaid with the collar of the SS.

Their London embassy explained that it was in fact an astrolabe, a navigational aid used by explorers who ventured forth from Lisbon.

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And with responsibility comes power. Under our shapely bonnets are a range of newly designed multi-valve engines.

The two GLX versions, (1.8 litre and 2.0 litre) each have 4 cylinders and 16 valves.

Bar urged to make payouts for negligence

In a second report on reforming the Bar's complaints system, Frances Gibb looks at the Consumers' Association case

able doubt" — when dealing with complaints of bad work outside court, instead of the civil test of "on the balance of probabilities".

A draft paper drawn up by the Consumers' Association says: "The right to redress is a basic consumer principle and an effective complaints system should contribute towards giving consumers that right. No group of professionals ought to recognise this more readily than barristers, whose main purpose in life is the pursuit of redress on behalf of clients."

Anthony Smith, a lawyer with the association, said: "Some improvements have been made to the system, but these do not go far enough. The system is criticised for what complainants see as a lack of independence: for conducting its affairs in private and giving minimum publicity to procedures or findings; and for being too limited in scope, in that only complaints which may relate to cases of professional misconduct are tackled.

There are complaints that barristers cannot be sued for negligence for work done in court, and that the Bar's disciplinary tribunal applies the criminal burden of proof — "beyond reasonable doubt".

Of the immunity rule, he said: "What other service is given where no remedy is provided in the case of incompetent or shoddy work? A surgeon is not immune from what he does in an operation but a barrister is immune from what he does in court. What spur is there to good service?"

The association is taking as a model the Solicitors' Complaints' Bureau, set up five years ago. Although funded by the Law Society, it had succeeded in establishing its independence, "judging by the hostility of solicitors to it", Mr Smith said. The association wants the Bar to publish the decisions of its hearings more widely; to produce an annual report; to publish an explanatory leaflet for complainants on how the system works; and to allow a single procedure so that it is not left to complainants to decide whether their cases amount to professional misconduct or negligence.

The Bar has already made some reforms. Complainants are now to be given reasons for the dismissal of a complaint, and they will be shown the barrister's response to their complaint. Gareth Williams, QC, Bar chairman, rejects the view that other changes, such as more publicity, are needed.

The question of the immunity rule is one for parliament, he says. "If barristers could be sued for work in court, there would be no end to litigation. Every time someone was convicted, he or she would sue counsel."

In the meantime, the Consumers' Association intends to press its case with the legal services ombudsman, Michael Barnes, whose appointment last year brought the Bar's complaints system under scrutiny for the first time.

Law Report, L&T section, page 8

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Car fleet directors accuse garages

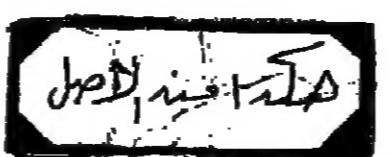
By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest fleet companies claim they are losing millions of pounds because of overcharging by motor dealers on service and maintenance costs.

Stan Thompson, the association's treasurer and managing director of Jessops (Vehicle Contract) Ltd of Romford, Essex, says: "We are being taken for a ride." He said maintenance costs had risen by about 10 per cent when inflation had fallen to below 4 per cent.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation estimates that 10 per cent of garages went out of business last year. New car sales have fallen for 29 consecutive months and servicing has declined because fewer motorists maintain their cars regularly.

David Gent, the federation's director-general, says a federation investigation found that most dealers charged fairly. "Most dealers value the business that fleet customers bring in and would not want to jeopardise that long-term relationship."



This Thursday, you can vote to unseat him



According to a recent survey,
"80% of the people of Britain are
against hunting with hounds."

A fact not reflected in every
party's official line.

Labour would allow a free vote
on a proposal to ban hunting and
would provide parliamentary time
for the necessary legislation.

The Liberal Democrats say that
they are opposed to hunting but that
legislation is a matter of conscience
for each individual MP.

And Conservative Party policy
is to take no action, believing it a
matter of individual choice whether
to hunt or not.

In practice, of course, not all
candidates toe the party line.

The only way to make sure
you're not left with blood on your
hands this Thursday is to quiz
your particular candidate.

And vote accordingly.

If you're against hunting, vote against hunting.



International Fund for Animal Welfare (Dept UTT), Tubwell House, New Road, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QH.

*Gallup for League Against Cruel Sports, November 1991

Jed in TJA

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 6 1992

ALAN WELLER

It is the Tories' turn after all, says Ashdown

Party leaders deride Owen's latest switch

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown and Neil Kinnock were united yesterday in their condemnation of David Owen's latest political conversion. Dr Owen, former Labour cabinet minister and co-founder of the Social Democratic party, urged voters in marginal seats to vote Tory while disclosing that he would personally vote Liberal Democrat.

Paddy Ashdown said: "It is only fair to the other parties. It is the Tories' turn after all ... When questioned about talks between Labour and the Liberal Democrats, Mr Kinnock said that Mr

Ashdown's comment "on David Owen's carryings-on was probably the most brilliant of all that had been offered about somebody who switches parties. I think Paddy deserves ten out of ten."

After months of wavering, Dr Owen urged voters in 90 marginal seats, which will largely determine the outcome on Thursday, to vote Tory. He intends to vote Liberal Democrat in Bow and Poplar, a London marginal where the Liberal Democrats hope to oust the Labour candidate Mildred Gordon, who beat the Alliance into second

Dr Owen, justifying his endorsement of Mr Major, said: "John Major is a far better prime minister than ever Neil Kinnock could be. We all change our minds from time to time, but these wholesale policy conversions make me shudder."

As a long-standing campaigner for constitutional reform, he also appealed to a minority Tory government not to shut the door on talks with the Liberal Democrats for a coalition government.

An ICM poll in the *Sunday Express* found that 7 per cent of voters, including some Liberal Democrats, would be more likely to vote Conservative after Dr Owen's endorsement. However, his remarks will not bring much joy to the two remaining independent SDP MPs fighting to retain their seats, Rosie Barnes and John Cartwright.

It was a sign of the increasingly anxious mood within the Major camp that the party chairman Chris Patten and his advisers leapt on Dr Owen's qualified support for Mr Major, claiming that it would help significantly in the party's struggle to secure wavering voters.

As a former cabinet minister, Dr Owen is likely to be offered a seat in the Lords.

date saw himself as the natural beneficiary of the advice offered to voters in vital marginals.

"I see this as a clear steer to them to back me on Thursday. If Labour start knocking him now, they'll only succeed in alienating those who might have supported them but still have personal affection and respect for Dr Owen."

All three candidates claim the advantage

BY BILL FROST

DAVID Owen's ambiguous intervention yesterday had candidates for the three main parties in his old constituency all claiming the advantage.

Murdoch MacTaggart, the Liberal Democrat in Plymouth Devonport, said callers to his campaign headquarters believed Dr Owen had nailed his colours to the party's mast. "As far as Devonport is concerned, where it's a two-horse race between us and Labour, the message they picked up was 'vote Liberal Democrat'."

Mr MacTaggart said he might seek Dr Owen's personal support: "I think I might well ask him to come down to Devonport this week, address a Liberal Democrat meeting and give me his endorsement."

David Jamieson, the Labour candidate, was also celebrating. "Dr Owen's intervention is marvellous news for us. That man is the kiss of death for any party unlucky enough to attract his support."

But there was jubilation in the Tory camp too. Keith Simpson, the party's candi-

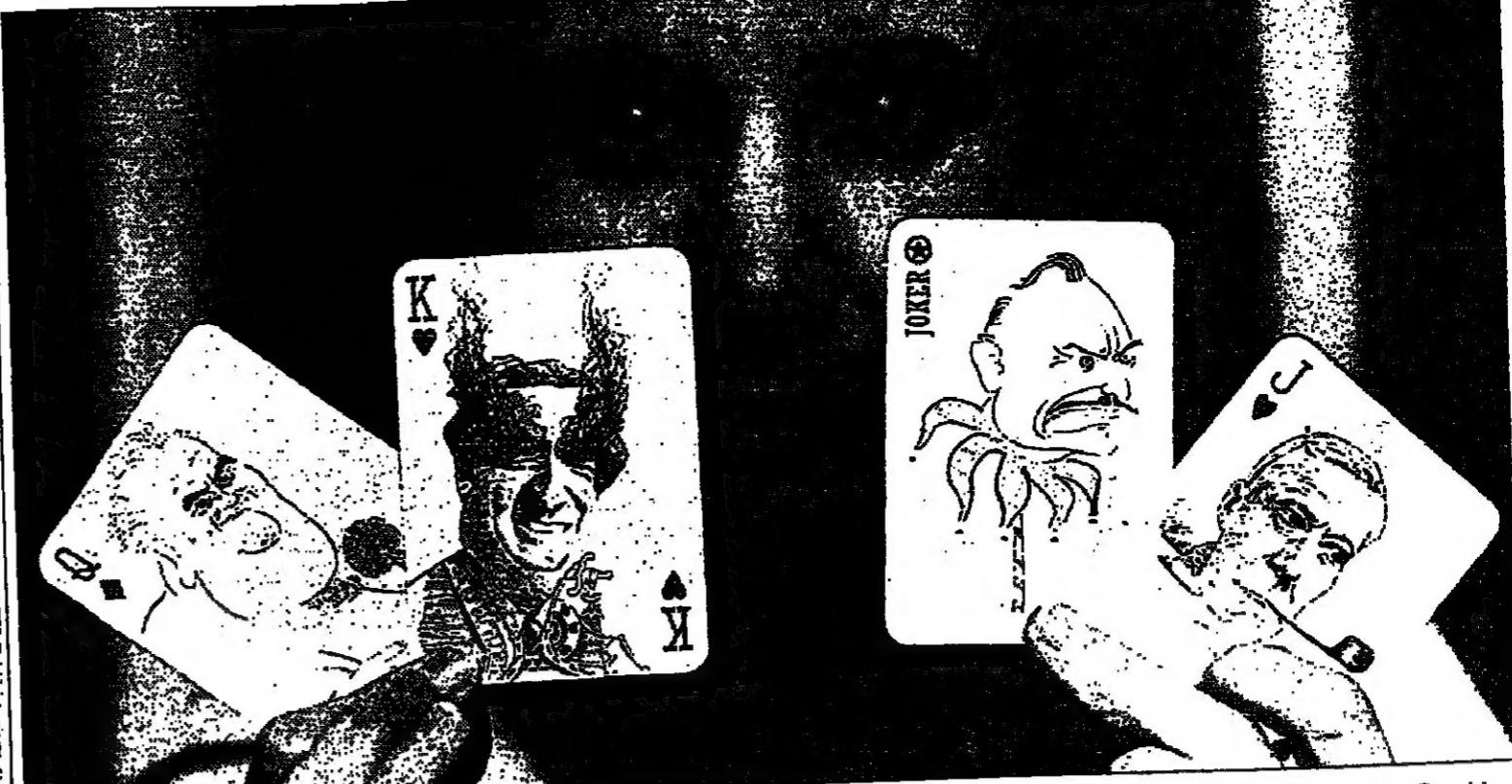


Owen: likely to be offered seat in Lords

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"I see this as a clear steer to them to back me on Thursday. If Labour start knocking him now, they'll only succeed in alienating those who might have supported them but still have personal affection and respect for Dr Owen."

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Political deal: Jacqueline Barber, of the Victoria and Albert museum, with cards from the "Cabinet Shuffle" pack, illustrated by Gerald Scarfe, John Springs, the late Mark Boxer and Wally Fawkes in 1983. The pack is part of the museum's display of electioneering art

Ashdown wins the posture doctor's approval

Stress experts say the party leaders should slow down and straighten up, writes Victoria McKee

WHEN Neil Kinnock was asked last week whether he considered himself fit for the job of prime minister, he retorted that the only problem with his fitness was a slight cough. But one of Britain's leading experts on body language vehemently disagrees.

"However much he has been posturing about behaving like a leader he doesn't have a leader's posture," says Dr Michael Durmell, a leading chiropractor who has manipulated celebrities such as Sir Ian McKellen, Susan Sarandon and Helena Bonham-Carter at his London clinics. He has been observing the political protagonists' physical leanings to decide whether they have the body language of leaders.

"Mr Kinnock is very chunky and clumsy, with poor muscle tone, and his body language shows that he is mega-aggressive. He has a way of jabbing his fingers at people which is very unpleasant but has obviously been told to keep them clasped during the campaign in order to pretend to be calm. His

body language shows that in the back of his mind he's not sure he's up for the job. I'd rate him only two out of ten."

It is a sad judgment against the leader of the only party which has promised to make chiropractic available on the NHS. But Dr Durmell also has doubts about the fitness of Mr Major. The prime minister expresses leaning he may not intend due to injuries from a car accident in the 1960s, which left one leg shorter than the other and causes him pain in the lower back.

Dr Durmell advises him to sit with a book under one buttock when he's not on his soapbox. "He would be an ideal candidate for chiropractic treatment," says Dr Durmell, who rates the incumbent at five out of ten on his "fitness to govern" scale because

of his slim physique. "He also leans his head too far forward which strangles his voice. That is possibly because he is naturally retiring and is trying too hard to be assertive. If you were mentally to cut off his head it would fall to the ground without touching his body!"

The doctor says Paddy Ashdown's "posture shows that he is a natural leader with excellent fitness and the ability to carry himself well. I'd rate him nine out of ten. But he loses a point because of the shifty way he sometimes touches his nose."

A second expert believes he has a pill for most of the ills of the present campaign. Dr Malcolm Carruthers of Harley Street, a pioneer of hormone replacement therapy for men, is already administering testosterone, by tablets or an implant in the buttock, to two MPs and three members of the House of Lords.

The reputedly aggressive male hormone would actually make MPs less aggressive but give them more positive drive. Dr Carruthers contends,

toms may be exaggerated after a vasectomy, which Mr Kinnock has had, and it's undoubtedly tougher for someone who's been burning themselves out in Opposition without the aphrodisiac of power which causes a surge of testosterone.

"Women MPs such as Theresa Gorman make no secret of the fact that they have been taking HRT, and I would be surprised if Margaret Thatcher didn't, so I don't think it could be regarded as unfair competition," he says.

"And while I don't think Paddy Ashdown needs it, it might make John Major a touch less 'grey'."

Professor Cary Cooper, a stress expert, says that "With PMS as with PMT (pre-menstrual syndrome), small issues are blown out of all proportion, people lose their sense of humour and every little thing becomes a problem. The whole Jennifer Bennett incident can be seen as a metaphor of the stress both parties are feeling," he says. "They are attacking each other instead of the issues!"

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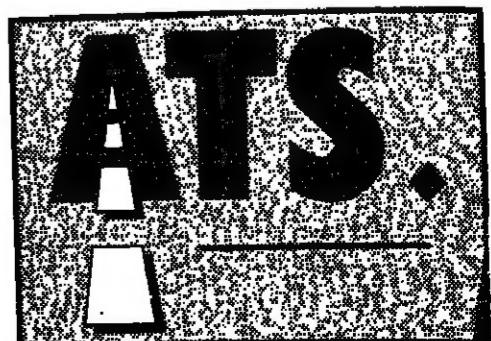
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MALGO

Constituency profiles: mixing it with the masses atop a Scots battlebus and taking a semi-detached line amid Aldershot's shoppers

The people's Pavarotti earns chorus of dissent

BY BEN MACINTYRE

"EVERY time you go away," crooned George Galloway, flanked by a vast pair of loudspeakers, "you take a piece of me with you." The Labour candidate for Glasgow Hillhead, had found his element on an open top double decker bus, singing along to a series of popular songs each more politically resonant than the last.

"Enough is enough is enough," he warbled as the bus swung into the Scotstoun area of Glasgow. "That's enough of the Tories," he added by way of explanation, to a startled pair of teenagers.

As a form of political discourse, karaoke might have been invented for George Galloway, since it enables him to wiggle his hips and make a lot of noise without fear of interruption. When

fingers). In Partick, a strongly Protestant and Loyalist area, the Galloway roadshow was abruptly halted when the generator for the music system ran out of diesel. Supplies were sent for while the fragrant MP found himself engaged in an unseemly political debate with a 12-year-old girl: "You support the IRA," she said.

"No I don't," he replied.

"You'll stop the Orange walks."

"You can have as many Orange walks as you like, just so long as you don't expect me to go on them."

She said: "Who do you support, anyway?"

"Partick Thistle," he responded diplomatically.

"Naa, Rangers are the best," she said.

The child disappeared, returning moments later with a handful of SNP stickers. Every time the bus tried to move off, she would dart out and attach another handful to the windows of the lower deck, and the bus would shudder to a halt.

Finally Mr Galloway lost his poise. "You do that again and you're in real trouble."

Out cue, the child's father emerged from behind a chip van, shouting "Who do you think you're threatening? You can threaten me, George, but not my children."

Mr Galloway, tightening the belt on his black cashmere overcoat, appeared to be preparing to do exactly that but the rest of the exchange was drowned out as the music system lurched back to life with Nessun Dorma, and the bus pulled away.

"I've been threatened with a stabbing in the street and I now have to have a police guard," said Mr Galloway.

"On the other hand I've got the Revolutionary Communist party attacking me because I won't unequivocally support the IRA."

Mr Galloway was again lost in an imitation of Pavarotti and pondering the subject he most enjoys.

"George Galloway — say what you like about him, you can't ignore him," he mused happily.

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and letters, page 17
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1987 result: G Galloway (Lab) 17,958 (42.9 per cent); R H Jenkins (SDP/All) 14,707 (35.1); B D Cooklin (C) 6,048 (14.4); W Kidd (SNP) 2,718 (6.5); A Whitelaw (Grn) 443 (1.1). Lab majority 3,251 (7.8 per cent).



not singing he used the microphone to provide a running and flattering commentary on himself.

Some of the populace were doing their best to break into his musical harangue. At a corner of Byres Road, a big man erupted into a flurry of insulting gestures so violent that he tripped over his piano.

But Mr Galloway, eyes half closed and happily oblivious, had broken into a slow number about a "perfect lover". "George Galloway — the perfect lover," he said in an aside.

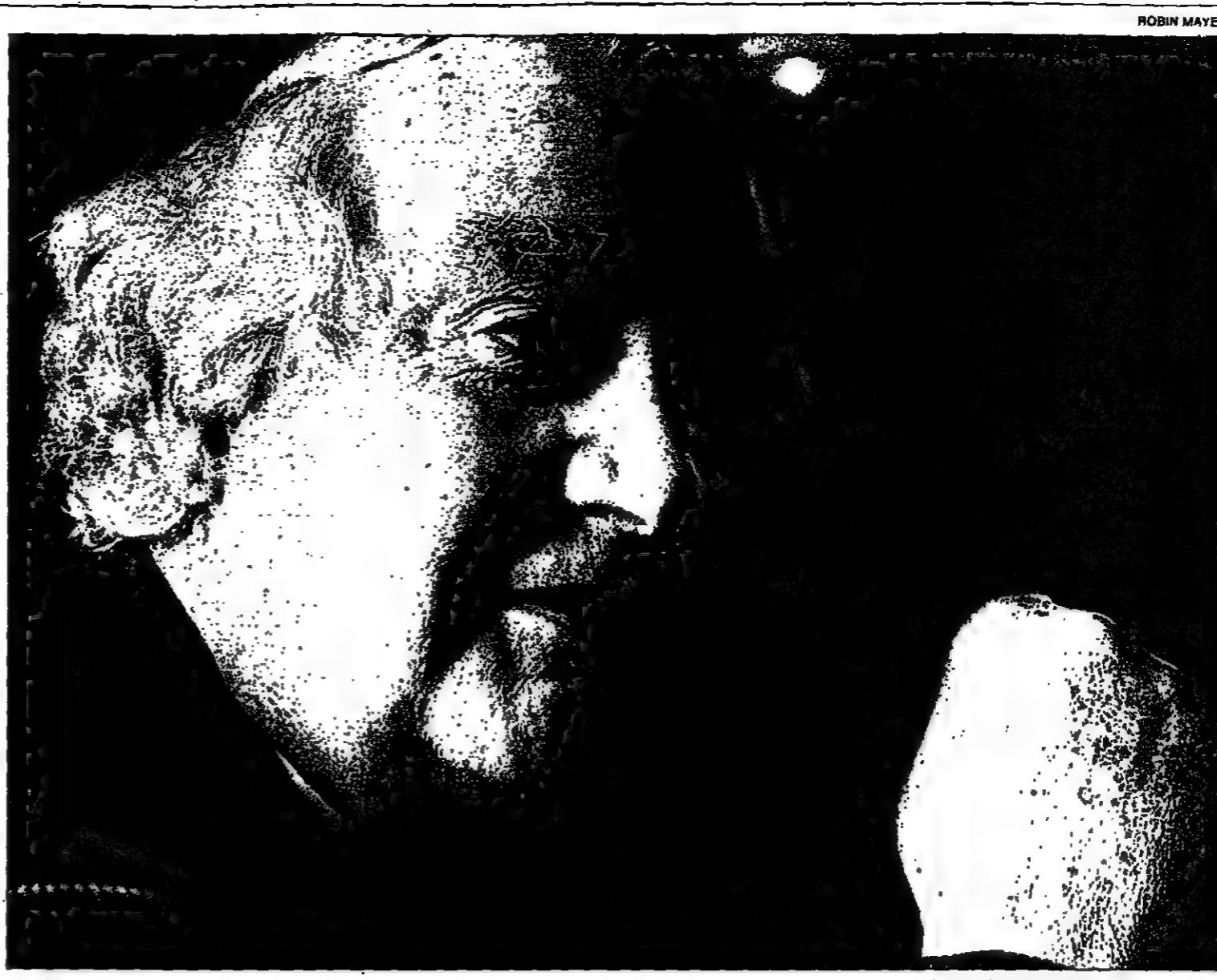
"Gorgeous" George's occupancy of the seat for Hillhead, which he wrested from Roy Jenkins in 1987 by 3,251 votes, has often been troubled by controversy, compounded by Mr Galloway's ability to offend enemies and allies equally. His campaign has made a virtue of this love of confrontation, using the slogan: "Straightforward, straight talking. Or, in this instance, singing."

Christopher Mason, regional councillor, requires a swing of only 3.9 per cent to re-elect the seat for the Liberal Democrats, but mounting support for Sandra White, the SNP candidate, appears to be splitting the vote of those not entirely seduced by Mr Galloway's charms. A recent poll suggested that the SNP had gained some 15 points on their 1987 result, pushing the Liberal Democrats into third place.

Mr Galloway's self-proclaimed position on the nationalist wing of the Labour party has taken some of the sting out of the SNP challenge. "In a situation where you have a big nationalist vote growing on the Left, I'm better placed than some others," he said.

Hillhead is among the most demographically varied of the Scottish constituencies, with the Yarrow shipyard and council estates in the west (where the Galloway bus is welcomed with raised fists), a growing business area in the east and the well-to-do middle-class housing of Kelvin-side in the north (where the bus is received with raised

By KATE MUIR



Campaigning up to a point: a languid Julian Critchley has his own electioneering style; and on the whole he prefers not to mention politics

Tory faithful queue for a blessing

By KATE MUIR

A VAST and florid gentleman with a withered blue rosebud in the papal manner as they leave Waitrose in Yateley, Hampshire. To those trolleys containing sun-dried tomatoes and virgin olive oil, he bellows: "Oxford for the boat race", and to those with him he says, "Good morning".

"I never talk about politics unless they do. It's much safer that way and much more congenial." This is Julian Critchley, Conservative candidate for Aldershot, engaged in an activity that comes close to canvassing.

He is on crutches after a spinal operation, and says: "Central office offered me a parrot for my shoulder, but I refused since it had been

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slothfulness. "No MP likes elections, but all the candidates do," he says. He suspects that John Smith for Labour and Adrian Collett for the Liberal Democrats are not suffering from the same yearning for the comfort and warmth of the House of Commons. He expects his majority to shrink, perhaps even to 10,000, as the recession nibbles rather than bites Aldershot.

Although the town announces on road signs that it is "The Home of the British Army", with more than 5,000 soldiers in the area and more retired, Mr Critchley thinks that he can ride the Options for Change storm. Aldershot may see some job losses in the aircraft industry. "Not that many ordinary soldiers vote, since they are often away; so it is more wives, officers and retired colonels and majors, and their allegiances don't change on the whole."

In the Touch of Taste Cafe and Rainbow Grocer, where

Mr Critchley and his team pack after the Waitrose manager sends them packing for soliciting on the premises, they find an enigmatic man who wishes to give his opinion. "We've got to keep the U-boats down," Graham Webb, a former chief petty officer with 22 years' service, says. "There are going to be more Falklands and more Gulf wars. The bloody Arabs will get going again. There's no cutting back on it."

Mr Critchley murmured in embarrassed tones about the peace dividend, but he was not about to lose a voter.

"Of course, I don't agree with their defence policy, but I wouldn't touch the other lot," Mr Webb says.

"I'm not saying the Tories are right — I'm just voting for

them." Meanwhile, in the White Lion pub John Lappler, a retired major-general, adds: "From the service's point of view, the Conservatives have the right attitude, despite the redundancies. I'm talking here for the officer corps. It might be different for NCOs."

So with the army gradually behind him, Mr Critchley's team is confident of success. On Saturday, the team consisted of Aubrey, a boy aged nine, wearing a JM 4 PM slogan and carrying a large bag of propaganda, and a former SDP candidate, now Conservative branch chairman.

Perhaps the usual wedded minders are absent because Mr Critchley backed Michael Heseltine at the time of Margaret Thatcher's fall. A movie de-select him failed, but a Lieutenant Commander Saxby-Soffe threatened to stand against him as an Anti-Critchley Tory. He failed to put in a nomination.

Having been an opposition movement all of his own within the Conservative party.

It must be said that Mr Critchley is sanguine about a possible future in the real Opposition. "It's more fun because you don't have to be so responsible," he says.

"I'm also keen on being in a government with a narrow majority, because the leadership has to start paying attention to the back benches. When they have got a majority of 100, they don't have to give a bugger."

Although Mr Critchley's recently published novel was titled *Hung Parliament*, he denies that he is a prophet.

"My next effort," he says, "will be called *Floating Voter*. It takes place at the Tory party conference. Jeffrey Archer is kidnapped and five different groups claim responsibility."

It is interrupted by husbands and wives in co-ordinated countrywear who come across the lounge bar for a pint.

She was helping to launch a policy document on aid, and said that at the present rate of growth, it would take the government 95 years to reach the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product set for Britain by the UN.

No easing-up

Nicholas Winterton, defending a big Tory majority of 19,092 in Macclesfield, says he has been the victim of a dirty tricks campaign in the constituency that led to a local newspaper publishing a report that he felt so sure of victory that he was taking a break in the last days of the campaign.

Liberal Democrats denied

Tory allegations of their complicity and said that their poster had also suffered.

Police defuse poster dispute

A dispute between Conservatives and Liberal Democrats over the disappearance of election posters at Cheltenham has been defused after a police caution for four youths for removing some of the posters. Police said that the youths were not connected with members of, or affiliated to, any political party.

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Majors' say

A survey of John Majors

shows that only one in five of the prime minister's name-sakes will vote for his party on Thursday. Half of those can

voted by the National News Agency said that they were fed up with his policies, preferring Labour. Only 6 per

cent support the Liberal Democrats, and 25 per cent

say that they have yet to decide how to vote. The John Majors criticise Mr Major for being boring. Fifty John and J Majors were questioned.

Odds for tie

Heavy betting on a hung parliament, including one £5,000 wager, has led the bookmaker William Hill to cut the odds from 4-5 to 4-6.

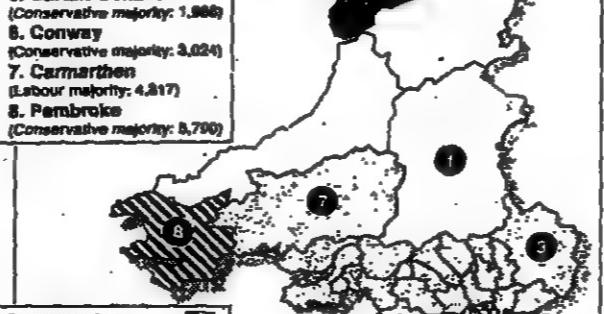
The odds for two elections this year have come down to 2-1 from 5-2. Hill makes Labour 4-11 favourite to emerge as the biggest single party, with the Conservatives at 15-8, and Lib Dems at 200-1.

Devolution arguments fail to sway unconverted

By TIM JONES

MARGINAL SEATS IN WALES

1. Brecon and Radnor (Lab/Dem majority: 58)
2. Delyn (Conservative majority: 1,224)
3. Monmouth (Conservative majority: 5,400)
4. Vale of Glamorgan (Labour majority: 6,028)
5. Cardiff Central (Conservative majority: 1,966)
6. Conway (Conservative majority: 3,024)
7. Carmarthen (Labour majority: 4,817)
8. Pembrokeshire (Conservative majority: 5,750)



grows rich on aqua dollars gleaned from providing water to the old enemy. But those are just dreams.

More pragmatically, the Plaid leadership points to growing evidence of the desire for a form of devolved assembly for Wales and has said it should be a revenue-raising parliament within the European Community.

Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid leader, says Wales is growing tired of being treated as a colony, overseen by a government

general" in the shape of David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, "who does not even represent a Welsh constituency".

The reality for Plaid is that its support is tied to the number of Welsh speakers. The language divides rather than unites the country. While a recent poll indicates that it can expect to increase its majority of 3,026 in Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, enticing 42 per cent of the electorate, its joint platform with the Greens in Monmouth will attract about 1 per cent.

The problem for Plaid, as for the Tories and Liberal Democrats, is that they all encounter the Labour stronghold of the South Wales valleys, where majorities of less than 20,000 are regarded as an oddity. Constituencies with Labour majorities such as the Rhondda (30,754) have been regarded by the Tories as no more than contests where potential converts can be blooded.

The argument over devolution and separation will scarcely figure in the fight to capture the seven or eight identifiable marginal seats.

Labour has promised an assembly, within the lifetime of a parliament, that will have

at the forefront of all the parties' campaigns. Yet, three days away from the election, no single option has a majority of support. According to Market Research Scotland, those favouring independence number 34 per cent, 40 per cent are backing devolution and 20 per cent

Mr Mori's poll suggests that as many as 42 per cent believe that devolution would be likely to lead to independence within ten years. It also shows that support for the current system has risen three points, to 23 per cent.

The constitutional issue remains

one of the most contentious in the Welsh Office. The Conservatives are firmly opposed to such a body, partly because they would be in a permanent minority.

Labour holds 26 seats in the principality: the Conservatives six and Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats three each. One of the most intriguing battles will be at Brecon and Radnor, a three-way marginal where Richard Llewellyn is defending a majority of only 56 for the Liberal Democrats. If Paddy Ashdown hopes to influence the next government, his party must win there.

By the same token, Huw Edwards must hold on to Monmouth for Labour if Neil Kinnock is to become prime minister. Mr Edwards captured the seat from the Tories in an acrimonious by-election in which the health service was a central issue.

To the far southwest, at Pembrokeshire — little England beyond Wales — local issues revolving around defence-related job losses mean that Nicholas Bennett cannot be sure his 5,700 majority will be enough to save him.

In Cardiff Central, a recent poll indicates that Ian Grist,

the Labour government's

defender, will be lucky to avoid defeat.

Given the swing to Labour,

the party will probably hang on to Vale of Glamorgan,

which it gained in a 1989 by-election by 6,028 votes.

Because of local issues,

Plaid could turn Carmarthen,

held for Labour by a majority of 4,317, into a close

Washington wakes up to the prospect of a Britain governed by Labour



Bush: respect for John Major "knows no bounds"

Suddenly the general election has caught Washington's attention. It has abruptly registered that after 12 years of working with ideological soulmates in Downing Street, the administration could within days be dealing with a Labour government. It is a prospect causing intense interest and some apprehension.

Government departments are hurrying to ascertain Labour's positions on a range of issues. Having taken Britain's support for granted during crises such as the bombing of Libya, the Panama invasion and Operation Desert Storm, officials are seeking reassurance that Labour would

After 12 years of working with the Tories, America is preparing for a possible change at Westminster, Martin Fletcher writes

continue the Tories' tough line against, for example, Libyan terrorism, Iraqi recalcitrance or "fortress Europe" protectionism.

A broader concern as President Bush faces re-election in November is that political trends in Britain tend to foreshadow those in America. As Britain swings to the right or left, so generally does America. A specific question is whether Labour would replace Sir Robin Renwick, Britain's energetic ambassador, with a political appointment.

Labour has ditched the nuclear unilateralism to which the Reagan administration objected so strongly in 1987 and embraced both Nato and Europe. "Kinnock's current programme doesn't present a whole lot of difficulties with our bilateral relationship," one administration official said. "The great unknown is will there be a community of

instincts? Will Kinnock immediately come to the same conclusions as this administration? ... There is a lot of appreciation of how valuable working with the UK has been and we very much hope that whatever the outcome that relationship will continue."

Another source said that inevitably there would be a loss of intimacy. "These guys have got used to picking up the phone and talking to people they know and like and trust." They had been able to count on British support absolutely, but now there would be a "whole new bunch of people and they will have to think twice — will the Brits be with us? On

his last trip to America, in July 1990, Neil Kinnock laid the ghost of his disastrous White House encounter of 1987 and impressed senior officials as reasonable, well briefed and accommodating, if a little verbose.

He naturally still generates enthusiasm on Democrat-controlled Capitol Hill than in the Republican White House, while Gerald Kaufman, the putative foreign secretary, remains an almost completely unknown quantity. He is said to have abandoned plans to visit Washington because he could not see James Baker, Secretary of State. The

State Department is also studying the ramifications of another Tory win. Officials realise that John Major would for the first time have his own mandate and could "shed all remaining Thatcherisms". They are also aware that a very slim Tory majority could limit his room for manoeuvre on contentious issues of interest to America.

Mr Bush none the less made his views abundantly clear on the day the election was announced. He did not want to interfere in British politics, he said, but Mr Major was a "superb leader" and his respect for the prime minister "knows no bounds".

Last broadcasts hold key

Late deciders offer the Tories little comfort

By IVOR CREWE

WITH the weekend's poll of polls putting Labour 2.5 points ahead, the Conservatives need a swing of at least 3 per cent to retain their overall majority. They are pinning their hopes of a late spur on the apparently large number of remaining "don't knows".

They may be right to believe that the "undecideds" are more numerous than usual: the Mori/Sunday Times panel survey has consistently found a larger proportion of undecideds and wavers than at the equivalent stages of the 1983 and 1987 campaigns. But yesterday's headlines suggesting that as many as one in four (the NOP/Mail on Sunday) or even one in three (the Harris/Oliver poll) remain "don't knows" are almost certainly wide of the mark. Closer inspection of the NOP poll shows that, among the 24 per cent who have not "definitely decided", only 5 per cent said there was a "good chance of changing".

According to past BBC/Gallup election-day surveys, the proportion making up their mind only in the last

few days of the campaign has varied between 5 per cent (1987) and 12 per cent (1979). This time the figure will probably be at the higher end of the range. Even so, the Tories would need to take almost all of the late deciders to keep their majority. If 10 per cent have still to decide, they would need to split something like Tory 70, Labour 10, Lib Dem 20.

Present evidence of the Conservatives' capacity to attract the don't knows is discouraging. The two panel surveys of this campaign — Mori's for *The Sunday Times* and NOP's for *The Independent on Sunday* — both show that voters who began the campaign as don't knows have split 4-3 in favour of Labour over the Conservatives, with a quarter opting for the Liberal Democrats.

The NOP panel found that among the wavering there were twice as many potential Tory defectors as recruits. The Tories will need a radical change of campaign tactics to reverse that ratio.

Now are past elections encouraging. Surprise late swings are not unknown, as the unexpected victories for the Conservatives in 1979 and for Labour in February 1974 remind us. In both cases the swing was to the Opposition when the outgoing government was defending a difficult record. On past form, any last-minute lurch by the voters is more likely to help Labour than the Tories.

It is even more likely to help the Liberal Democrats. In the past three elections late deciders have been roughly twice as likely as the rest of the electorate to vote for the centre — about half voted for the Alliance in 1983 and 1987.

The motives are partly tactical, partly protest: many late deciders are equally indifferent to or indignant with the two main parties and see the centre as a halfway house. Whatever the reason, the centre vote has risen by two to three points in the final week of the past three elections.

According to the BBC/Gallup surveys, what had by far the most influence on the late deciders were the parties' final election broadcasts. John Major's will need to be of Churchillian dimensions to turn the election round.

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HOW LATE DECIDERS VOTED, 1979-87

	1979	1982	1987
C	38%	23%	20%
Lab	30%	22%	21%
Lib Dem	29%	33%	47%
Others	4%	2%	3%
All votes	12%	8%	5%

Source: BBC/Gallup surveys

Sinn Fein support still sliding

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE first opinion poll conducted in Northern Ireland this year shows significant support emerging for the newly organised Conservative party. A rating of 9 per cent makes it the fourth largest political force in the province.

The survey by Mori, carried out for *The Sunday Times* last week, also found overwhelming support among Protestant and Unionist voters for a deal with a minority Conservative government in a hung parliament. It shows too, that there is a real possibility that Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, may lose his seat in West Belfast to the moderate SDLP, which is benefiting from a 3 per cent swing in the Belfast area.

The Conservatives share of the vote places it two points ahead of Sinn Fein (7 per cent) and just behind the Alliance (10 per cent), both of which trail the two Unionist parties (UUP 32 per cent, DUP 15 per cent) and the SDLP (20 per cent). Although it does not look as though the Tories will return an MP — their best chance is in the North Down constituency where the sitting MP is Jim Kilfeder — they look set to make an important impact in their first general election since organising in Northern Ireland two years ago.

The 7 per cent rating for Sinn Fein, if reflected on Thursday, will be another serious setback. The party has declined steadily since the 1983 election, when it scored 13.4 per cent; in 1987 its vote fell to 11.4 per cent. Another fall will further undercut its already limited support and must reflect the success of the government-led marginalisation of the party while it continues its support for IRA violence.

That, however, assumes that readers vote as their papers tell them, which is only partly true. *The News of the World* enthusiastically backed John Major — but 47 per cent of its readers plan to vote Labour, according to Mori, against 33 per cent who will vote Tory, which suggests that they are more interested in sex and sin than politics. (Among Sun readers, for the record, the split is 41 per cent Tory to 40 per cent Labour).

An endorsement was more difficult for *The Independent on Sunday*. At the last election, *The Independent* upheld its independence by refusing to endorse any party. As a variant on that policy, it intends this week to make the positive case for each party, ending with the Liberal Democrats. Yesterday, however, Ian Jack, executive editor of *The FoS*, explained in a signed leading article why he could

not vote Tory. Margaret Thatcher's regime had grown corrupt and arrogant and made too many mistakes, he said. "Today we suffer the results, ungraced by a word of regret or apology." Given its readers' voting intentions, that decision, too, was not surprising: 35 per cent will vote Labour and 33 per cent Liberal Democrat. It did, however, dent that reputation for political independence. Perhaps that advertisement should now read: It was. Are you?

The main scoop yesterday was the declaration by David Owen in *The Mail on Sunday* that voters in marginal seats should help to keep Mr Major as prime minister. Its timing was agreed before the election started between Dr Owen and Stewart Steven, the editor, for maximum impact. That mutual pact certainly succeeded. *The Mail on Sunday*'s main

rival, the *Sunday Express*, also led on the story, albeit without acknowledging its provenance, and it was reported in four other papers — though in none of the three Labour papers.

Yet as the nation awaits the verdict of Fleet Street before deciding how to vote — and only if you believe that you can really write convincing leading articles — the question arises whether what the papers say really matters. An unusually frank admission was made by Mr Jack, who pointed out that for all their Olympic thunder leading articles are written by men and women with mortgages and children and trains to catch just like you and me. Quite a few still have chauffeurs, however.

Only four papers still to declare their position — the *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, the *Daily Star* and *Today*.

Memories of a previous hung Parliament: Jeremy Thorpe (left) with Harold Wilson

Major's warning, page 1

MEDIAWATCH by Brian MacArthur

Late move to Labour fails to halt a loyal tide

NEIL KINNOCK won two new supporters in Fleet Street yesterday as the nine main Sunday papers made their vote. A majority endorsed the Tories, with five voting Tory against the four which opted for Labour. If Fleet Street had its way, there would be no hung parliament. Judged by sales, the Sunday papers delivered a majority for John Major over Neil Kinnock of ten million to 5.8 million.

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Cook sets health target

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will act in its first month to support a European Community ban on tobacco advertising and establish a special cabinet committee on health promotion, Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, pledged yesterday.

The party started the campaign final week by returning to its strongest single issue and effectively relaunched its health manifesto by setting out its "checklist" for its first four months in office. In the first month it would half work on hospital opt-outs and set a timetable for integrating the first wave into community health authorities.

Mr Cook accused the government of having killed a white paper on health promotion because of campaign support from Imperial Tobacco, and said Labour had learnt that Imperial Tobacco had given 2,000 advertising sites to the Conservatives. "There is no longer any mystery as to why the Cabinet committee chaired by Chris Patten killed off a White Paper on health promotion which has broad public support. He sold the White Paper for a list of poster sites."

Mr Cook later accused Mr Patten of a "straightforward fabrication". He denied he had been chairman of any cabinet committee dealing with health, health promotion or the health White Paper. "The scandal about party political advertising is that the trade unions are queuing up to spend money on behalf of the Labour party in return for favours, if heavy forbids Labour were ever to form a government."

Mr. Major says he's lowered taxes.

The taxman says he's put them up.

The taxman isn't standing
for re-election.

Mr. Major would have you believe that his is the government of lower taxes.

But the government's own figures show that the total amount of tax taken has risen

from 34.75% of GDP in 1978/9 to 36.75% in 1991/2.

Of course income tax has been cut. But the government have taken back even more by increasing VAT and other taxes and introducing the poll tax.

The Inland Revenue Staff Federation believe this is an unfair way to tax.

VAT and flat rate poll tax cost the same to everyone, no matter what they earn.

Income tax, on the other hand, is paid by those who can afford to pay.

We're sorry to have to put you right, Mr. Major. But it's our job to spot a tax dodge.

Yugoslav jets and snipers join battle for Sarajevo

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

GUNFIRE and explosions echoed around Sarajevo yesterday as the situation in the central Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina suddenly grew worse.

Yugoslav air force jets screamed low over the Bosnian capital while Radio Sarajevo said that "hundreds" had died in fighting in the town of Kupres, near Split, where Croatian positions had been rocked by Yugoslav jets. One of the aircraft was reportedly shot down.

Unconfirmed reports spoke of Serb and Muslim militias fighting on the edge of Sarajevo yesterday, and snipers injured several people demonstrating for peace in the centre of the city. Protesters broke into the Bosnian parliament, while explosions shook the centre of town. Live television showed a mortar exploding in Sarajevo's Jewish cemetery.

On Saturday night, President Izetbegovic of Bosnia, a Muslim, ordered mobilisation of the republic's territorial defence forces and reserve police, an act denounced by Bosnia's Serbian leader, Radovan Karadzic.

European Community foreign ministers meet in Brussels today to recognise

nearly Muslim town in a solidly Serbian area, was taken by a Serb militia which has recently moved from Croatia. President Izetbegovic accused the Yugoslav army of responsibility for the deaths of 27 people in Bijeljina through their failure to intervene. He also accused the Serbian leadership of aggression, because of the close relationship between the government in Belgrade and the Serb militia.

The first large contingents of United Nations troops began to deploy in Serb-controlled areas of Croatia. UN officials have insisted that their operation, whose headquarters are in Sarajevo, will not be affected by developments in Bosnia. However, yesterday Cedric Thornberry, the civilian head of the UN peace force for Yugoslavia, said that if war in Bosnia made its work impossible it would relocate rather than allow the mission to collapse. "We could be out of Sarajevo in 24 hours," he said.

José-Maria Mendiluce, the special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Yugoslavia, said that at least 10,000 Bosnians had been displaced by intercommunal fighting in the last two weeks. "We are not very optimistic," he said. "All sides have been intentionally creating refugees, pushing people out and creating panic for political purposes," he said. The UN had had advance warning there was to be trouble in Kupres and other places, because women and children had been evacuated before fighting broke out.

Five weeks ago Croats and Muslims, who make up just over 60 per cent of Bosnia's 4.3 million people, voted overwhelmingly for independence. The poll was boycotted by Serbs, who make up 31 per cent of the population and who had already voted in their own referendum to stay in Yugoslavia. Over the last few weeks all sides had been inching towards a compromise solution by which the Serbs would agree to Bosnian independence after the republic had been transformed into a confederation.

Because today is both the anniversary of the wartime bombing of Belgrade by Germany and of Sarajevo's liberation in 1945, the EC would announce its recognition of Bosnia and Macedonia tomorrow. America, which has not yet recognised Croatia and Slovenia, is expected to recognise all four republics this week.

EC observers were forced out of Bosnian Brod by the fighting and were unable to gain access to Bijeljina, which was seized by Serb militias on Friday. Bijeljina, a predomin-



Tempting offer: a former Russian soldier proffers a religious icon to a woman at the central railway station in Moscow. Street trading has become a daily occurrence since President Yeltsin removed price controls in January, bringing out a variety of hawkers and wares

State shops go private in tsarist Russia's fair city

MARY DEJEVSKY in Nizhni Novgorod, the scene of trade fairs for centuries, reports on protests by shopworkers as the privatisation auctioneers move in

RUSSIA now has private shops for the first time since the Bolshevik revolution. Forty of them sprang into life at the weekend — and all in the city of Nizhni Novgorod. A sprawling industrial conglomeration on the confluence of the Oka river and the Volga, 350 miles east of Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod was the site of world-famous trade fairs before the revolution. Now, partly thanks to that historical legacy, it is the centre for a pioneering privatisation scheme which could put Nizhni back on the commercial map and set the pattern for Russia.

On Saturday more than 500 people, mainly from the city and its surrounding region, crowded into the city's central cultural centre, to the accompaniment of a jazz trio, to watch and cheer as small fragments of "state property" went under the hammer. A total of 97 individuals had registered as bidders for the 22 properties on offer.

In the two weeks before the auction, they had supplied evidence of identity, viewed the sites in which they were interested, transferred 10 per cent of the starting price as a pledge of their interest and solvency, and collected their bidder's card — a large oblong with their number on it. On auction day, they turned up at the hall dressed to the nines.

Yegor Gaidar, Russia's first deputy prime minister, and Anatoli Chubais, head of the state privatisation committee, came to give the auction the Russian government's support. "We have finally been able to form a basis for privatisation," Mr Gaidar said afterwards. "This was splendid work, a model that can be replicated across Russia."

On their way in, both were jeered and jeered by a hostile crowd of about 300 people. Their placards denounced the local governor, Boris Nemtsov, aged 30, and Dmitri Bedyakov, the mayor.

"Find someone else for your dubious experiments!"

"You're taking away our constitutionally guaranteed right to work!"

"We want work, not beggary," they read, but the uniformity of the script suggested that the demonstration was not entirely spontaneous.

A spokesman for the mayor said that the protest had been permitted in return for

the trade unions calling off an anti-privatisation strike planned for April 2 and 3.

Smiling broadly, he said that the unions had threatened a crowd of 25,000.

Mr Gaidar was similarly unimpressed. "If there had been hungry crowds roaming the streets looking for food, and if shops earmarked for privatisation had been stormed and looted — then we might have something to worry about," he said.

The people in the crowd — mostly middle-aged women, who comprise the majority of shopworkers — were worried about redundancy, for the state trade sector is one of the many areas crying out for staff cuts.

The auctions in Nizhni Novgorod, which will now become a regular event, have been prepared and organised by the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank with experience of privatisation schemes in Poland and Czechoslovakia, on behalf of the city and regional authorities.

Giving a warning that the old order might try to take its revenge at the congress, Mr Yeltsin emphasised that he wanted the special powers granted to him by the last congress enshrined in the constitution. The relationship between the president and the parliament will be one of the most keenly contested issues

Yeltsin demands power guarantee

BY MARY DEJEVSKY AND BRUCE CLARK

PRESIDENT Yeltsin of Russia made it clear yesterday that he had no intention of altering the country's present course of economic reform and would put all his weight behind his government team.

Entering the constitutional debate, he called for Russia to become a fully "presidential", rather than "parliamentary" republic, and condemned both the Russian parliament and the state bureaucracy for blocking his reforms.

Mr Yeltsin was addressing an event called the "citizens assembly", a largely artificial gathering called on the eve of today's Russian Congress of People's Deputies to express support for the president and his reforms. His half-hour address was a dress rehearsal for today and indicated what concessions he is likely to offer the powerful opposition, and where there will be no compromise at all.

Outside the Kremlin, communists and nationalists cemented their unlikely alliance by joining forces to denounce the government for selling out to the capitalist West. A weird mixture of red flags, tsarist banners, religious icons and portraits of Lenin were brandished at the noisy and passionate demonstration of about 7,000 seething with hatred for the "traitor" Boris Yeltsin and his cabinet.

Again, a Star of David background — reflecting the antipathy of the half-Christian, half-communist demonstrators towards all Jews — one of the biggest placards said simply: "Yeltsin Judas".

Kohl shuts door on old Soviet republics

BONN: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has shut the door on early links between the European Community and the republics of the former Soviet Union (IAN MURRAY writes). Herr Kohl, host of this year's summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations, instead wants the developed world to share the burden of restructuring their economies.

Shocked by the high cost of German unification and concerned that Germany will have to pay a high price to implement the Maastricht treaties, the chancellor is willing, albeit reluctantly, to back Polish, Czechoslovakian and Hungarian bids for EC association, but will go no further.

Instead, he wants to see the newly independent republics help and encouraged to form their own economic trading bloc, paralleling the EC, which would be linked to the Community only when it became financially viable for it to do so.

Leading article, page 16

Rebels quelled

TBILISI: Georgian leaders said troops loyal to Eduard Shevardnadze's government had quelled armed opposition by supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president, and is in control of the main pockets of resistance in west Georgia. (REUTERS)

Cuts planned

BRUSSELS: Belgium's new centre-left government has announced taxes and spending cuts, mainly in social security, totalling £1.27 billion to try to reduce its budget deficit before joining the European monetary union in 1996. (REUTERS)

Russia accused

KISHINOV: Moldavia has accused Russia of gross interference in its internal affairs after Aleksandr Ruskoi, the Russian vice-president, visited former Soviet troops at Tiraspol, the capital of the breakaway republic of Dniestr. (REUTERS)

Andorra votes

ANDORRA LA VELLA: Andorrans voted in elections that should hasten the drafting of a constitution for a country run along medieval lines. Political parties, officially illegal, were given television spots and women candidates are standing for the first time. (REUTERS)

TV guest held

BARCELONA: Former convict Bernardo Bailester's tale of hardship so touched television viewers that they offered him money and jobs. However, he was arrested afterwards when witnesses claimed he was the robber of a jewellery shop. (REUTERS)

Slow start to ballot keeps Italian parties guessing

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

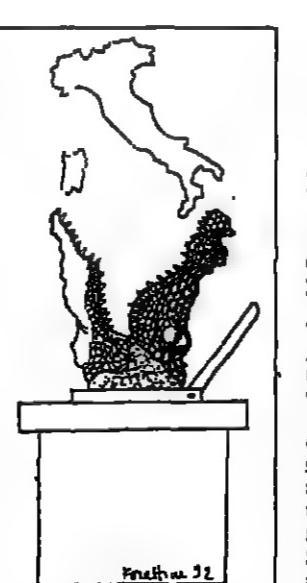
VOTING began sluggishly in the volatile Italian general election yesterday, reinforcing speculation that absenteeism could prevent the ruling Christian Democrats and Socialists from reelecting the outgoing coalition led by Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister.

Four hours after the polls opened, only 9.8 per cent of the electorate of 47 million had cast ballots compared with 15.5 per cent at the same time in the last election of 1987, the interior ministry said. First results in the contest, that is believed to be the most unpredictable since 1948, will not be known until this afternoon after a second day of voting.

Many voters who did turn out said they were confused at polling stations by the long lists of candidates and symbols of numerous fringe parties trying to cash in on disenchantment with the traditional groupings and the uncertainty after the collapse of communism. "At first sight it is not easy," a Catholic nun said after voting in the Roman quarter of San Lorenzo. "There is a forest of names, I hope that things will at least stay the same."

New symbols on polling cards included the oak adopted by the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), a heart for the Party of Love, a car for the Political Movement for the Defence of Motorists, and fish and fowl for the Hunting, Fishing and Environment party.

Strategists at Christian Democrat headquarters in Piazza del Gesù had long



La Repubblica sees the Mafia as a crocodile about to swallow Italy

fear that absenteeism, as well as fragmentation, could deny a majority to their outgoing government alliance with the Socialists, Democrats and Liberals.

"These elections risk having only one winner — the non-vote party," the newspaper *La Stampa* yesterday quoted Luigi Baruffi, the head of the Christian Democrat electoral department, as saying.

The lowest initial turnout of any region, 6.4 per cent, was registered in Sicily. *La Stampa* said the assassination by the Mafia on Saturday night on the island of a well-known police investigator, Giuliano Guazzelli, "could discourage even more

the electors in the south from going to the ballot box."

Sigmar Andreotti reiterated his fear that Italy could be ungovernable if the voters are lured by protest parties such as the League of the North which demands autonomy from Rome. "This is no time for experiments," Signor Andreotti told *Il Messaggero* yesterday.

President Cossiga said: "The elections today are similar to those of 1946 when there was uncertainty as to what was the Italian political map." If the Christian Democrats slide from their 1987 score of 34 per cent to as low as 30 per cent, they may be unable to mount a majority alliance, even if the jolliest Social Democrats and Liberals retain their previous shares of 3 per cent and 2 per cent respectively in the Chamber of Deputies. Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, has said he would resign if his party does much worse than its 1987 showing of 14 per cent.

The Christian Democrats have started exploring ways of avoiding bringing into a coalition their main adversaries, the Republicans, who are expected to improve on their 1987 score of 3.7 per cent, and the PDS, who hope to remain the second largest national party with some 17 per cent.

The ruling parties yesterday were reported to be making entreaties behind the scenes to the Greens for support, and Signor Andreotti hinted that a cabinet post for the league leader, Umberto Bossi, is not excluded.



Lutherans pick woman as bishop of Hamburg

BY IAN MURRAY

HAMBURG, proud of its tough masculine image as a port and trading city, is to have the world's first woman Lutheran bishop. Only a year after being chosen as the first woman to be regional provost of the church, the Rev Maria Jepsen has specialised in reinterpreting the role of the women described in the Bible. "Up to now the church has virtually allowed women to serve only as deacons of Hamburg."

A determined though moderate feminist, Mrs Jepsen has specialised in reinterpreting the role of the women described in the Bible. "Up to now the church has virtually allowed women to serve only at the bottom," she said after her election. "This must not be allowed to continue."

church of Saint Michael, where her opponent, the Rev Helge Adolphsen, is pastor. He promised to continue to serve as dean of Hamburg.

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German state polls reward far right

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE extreme right-wing Republican party inflicted a shock setback on the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, in the state elections in Baden-Württemberg yesterday. And in Schleswig-Holstein the right-wing German People's party (DVP) was poised to enter parliament for the first time, just gaining the 5 per cent of the vote it needs under proportional representation.

The Social Democratic party (SPD) also lost ground in the two states as voters served notice that they will no longer tolerate the arrival in Germany of thousands of foreigners seeking asylum.

In Baden-Württemberg, the Christian Democrats lost the overall majority they had enjoyed for the past two decades. The radical right-wing Republicans won more than 10 per cent of the vote, representing their best result yet.

The results are an acute embarrassment for both the main parties' leaders. Herr Kohl, the CDU leader, had thrown himself wholeheartedly into the campaign in Baden-Württemberg and still did not manage to reassure voters that the asylum problem would be resolved. Björn Engholm, the SPD leader and prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein, failed to keep the overall majority he won four years ago and must now find a coalition partner.

Herr Kohl avoided making any unpopular announcements about future economic measures during his busy election campaign. They may not, however, be long in coming.

JOSEPH BRODsky, the Nobel prize-winning poet, was left speechless when no one showed up at a news conference he held at West Virginia University's student union.

BOB HAWKE, the former Australian prime minister, said yesterday that energy expended on arguing over republicanism would be better spent on improving relations with the Aborigines.

Kohl shut
door on
old Soviet
republic

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OVERSEAS NEWS 15

Clash over trial evidence breaks up Mandela marriage



Problems ahead: Mr and Mrs Mandela seen in public together after his release from prison

COLLAPSE of the 36-year marriage of Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie — for 27 of which the African National Congress leader was in prison — was reported at the weekend but it had been expected for some time.

Since her trial last year when she was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for kidnapping and assault relating to the death of Stompie Mokheti, a teenage activist, the couple have been pursuing virtually separate lives and have seldom been seen in public together. But it is unlikely that Mr Mandela, aged 72, will divorce his wife, who is nearly 20 years younger. They will separate legally, with Mrs Mandela staying in the lavish house she built in Soweto, near Johannesburg.

The reports of the final breakdown of the Mandela marriage follow the mysteri-

ous disappearance last week of Mrs Xoliswa Felati, aged 38, one of Mrs Mandela's three co-defendants, who was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for assault and kidnapping. Like Mrs Mandela, she is on bail pending an appeal against conviction and sentence due on April 30. But it is claimed there was a furious quarrel between the two women last weekend, when Mrs Felati threatened to say that she had lied during the trial to protect Mrs Mandela.

Mrs Felati was working at a Methodist Church sanctuary in Soweto from which 14-year-old Stompie Mokheti

was abducted by Mrs Mandela's notorious team of bodyguards, the Mandela United Football Club, four years ago. He was taken with three other youths to Mrs Mandela's Soweto home and his battered body was found later in a ditch. Jerry Richardson, the club's so-called coach, was subsequently sentenced to death for murder and is being held with other condemned prisoners in Pretoria central prison.

Since the trial Mrs Felati had been employed as a servant by the Mandelas, but after last weekend's quarrel was ordered by Mrs Mandela

to leave her backyard room. "She was drunk and in a foul mood and waving a Makarov pistol," Mrs Felati is reported as saying. "She came at me like a mad woman. She was screaming at me that I was going to prison."

Mr Mandela is said to have intervened, but the next day

Mrs Felati telephoned a newspaper and said she was

"not feeling safe". When reporters arrived neighbours told them she had left in a car accompanied by several men.

ANC officials have refused to comment on the reported breakdown of the marriage. Mrs Mandela's high-profile political conduct has frequently embarrassed her husband even before he was freed from prison, as well as

the ANC hierarchy.

From jail he ordered her to

disband the Mandela United Football Club when reports

about its thuggish activities, which led eventually to the kidnap and assault trial, began to surface. Mr Mandela attended court on most days during his three-month trial last year, but it was noticeable that she spent most time during recesses with her own associates rather than with her husband.

Now, it is reported, after a "showdown" with his wife, he has demanded that she should withdraw from politics, something which the charismatic Mrs Mandela will clearly find extremely difficult to do.

The radical Pan Africanist

Congress, which until now has refused to take part in constitutional negotiations, is to hold talks with the South African government in Nigeria this week according to Clarence Makwetu, the PAC president. He did not rule out

the possibility of the PAC taking part in Cadesa (Convention for a Democratic South Africa), depending on the outcome of the talks.

The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of President Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, in Abuja. The South African delegation will be led by R.F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister. According to Nigerian radio, President de Clerk will visit the country late this week for talks with President Babangida.

Continuing black-on-black violence in South Africa has claimed 36 more lives since

Friday and a right-wing extremist group, the "White Wolves", has claimed responsibility for a bomb blast at a trade show in Johannesburg which injured nine others.

Gloom descends on Washington

White House morale hits its lowest point

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

MARLIN Fitzwater, President Bush's veteran press secretary, came close to resigning last week out of frustration at the endless disarray in the White House in this election year.

At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, dozens of incumbent congressmen really are leaving, fed up with an institution afflicted by legislative paralysis and viewed with unprecedented contempt by the public. With many other congressmen doomed by the House banking scandal, there are already predictions of a higher turnover in the House this November than 1948's record 118.

In short, a profound malaise has enveloped Washington. The nation is sick of its political establishment. Voters are either giving up on the electoral process, or turning

in huge numbers to the "outsiders" like Jerry Brown, Patrick Buchanan and — though he has yet to declare — the Texas billionaire Ross Perot. If Mr Bush, now below 40 per cent in the polls, does win re-election, it will be largely by default.

The Washington Post reported at the weekend that Mr Fitzwater left a recent White House planning meeting in disgust, complaining that he had "just about had enough". He abruptly left for a holiday in Bermuda.

Mr Fitzwater issued a somewhat equivocal rebuff of the story, but few questioned its gist. Officials spoke of "functional gridlock" at the White House, of "operational constipation" and "an unbelievable inability to execute". One said Mr Fitzwater, who has to explain White House

policy to the country, had consistently complained at the meeting of "endless meetings, endless planning, re-planning and revisiting and that nothing ever gets done".

Samuel Skinner, the president's new Chief of Staff, was the butt of much of the criticism. He is said to have created a bureaucracy top-heavy with inexperienced officials incapable of following through on their decisions. The result has been that Mr Bush, who is reportedly "miserable", has spent the year jumping from theme to theme, strategy to strategy, and has received the worst press of his presidency. The Centre for Media and Public Affairs calculated that 76 per cent of his coverage since January 1 has been negative.

The latest strategy of a president, who has spent quarter of a century in Washington, is to cast himself as the scourge of the political status quo by bashing the Democrat-controlled congress, the one target weaker than himself.

Following the House post office and banking scandals, which crystallised the public perception of Congress as corrupt, self-serving and out of touch, one poll last week showed the institution now had a derisive 17 per cent approval rating. Veteran members say morale has never been so low. Three times in the last two weeks the Democratic leadership has been unable to muster majorities for controversial legislation.

Already about 50 congressmen and six senators have announced that for various reasons they will not seek re-election in November, some lacing their announcements with bitter words. Warren Rudman, New Hampshire's highly respected senator, declared himself "terribly frustrated" because he could accomplish nothing. Senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota is leaving after one term because the budget deficit, which he had pledged to reduce, was instead "completely out of control".

So strong is America's present hostility to incumbents that the Republicans harbour outside hopes of winning majorities in the Senate for the first time since 1980 and the House for the first time since 1954. They are deliberately inflaming the public's anger.

The Democrats' House majority of 102 will almost certainly be reduced. The Democrats outnumber Republicans 57-43 in the Senate, but have significantly more senators facing difficult contests this autumn.

"If the United States and Britain give Gadaffi guarantees that he personally is not the 'big fish' in the Lockerbie affair, then there is a slight hope of a breakthrough by finding a formula to hand the suspect to the Arab League," an Arab diplomat in Tripoli said.

Despite blood-curdling rhetoric, the Libyan leader has made clear that the two suspects, both intelligence agents, are free to surrender to either the Arab League or the UN. Variations on this idea will prove the main substance of this week's diplomatic manoeuvring.

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In a fiery speech on Saturday, Colonel Gadaffi defiantly dismissed the threatened sanctions and urged Muslims to "sharpen their swords" to resist a new crusade against Islam from the Christian West. "Muslims all over the world, the battle being waged by modern Western crusading forces, having ended against communism, is now being directed against Islam," he told 3,000 Libyans in the capital's main square.

As people shouted *Allahu Akbar* (God is Great), the white-robed leader told them: "We, too, have to beat the drums and close ranks and sharpen our swords and get

Cautious Cuomo hedges his bets

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

BILL Clinton made his statutory courtesy call on Governor Mario Cuomo of New York at the weekend. He received, in advance of tomorrow's critical primary, the nearest thing to an endorsement he could have hoped for from the man he recently called a "mean son of a bitch who acted like a mafioso".

Mr Clinton would make a "superb president", said Mr Cuomo, who has a long history of ideological and personal conflict with Mr Clinton. It was almost an afterthought that he added that he would also support Jerry Brown. Mr Clinton's Democratic opponent, were he to win the party's nomination,

Mr Clinton had disparaged Mr Cuomo in recorded telephone conversations with Jennifer Flowers, his alleged lover, which Ms Flowers released in January. This time, for public consumption, Mr Clinton called Mr Cuomo "one of the most brilliant and insightful political leaders this country has produced in my lifetime". You had to be a little mean just to survive in New York, added the man who has endured a two-week banting by the media.

The Clinton camp were delighted by the visit to Albany, the state capital, and received official endorsement of *The New York Times*. Some of the allegations levelled against him had been unfair and exaggerated, said the newspaper, which had itself devoted considerable resources to investigating Mr Clinton's past. Those allegations obscured "a record of accomplishment that gives credibility to the cogent programme he proposes".

Mr Brown meanwhile called Mr Clinton the "prince of sleaze" and "puppet" and "frontman" for the political establishment he pretended to oppose.

Mr Clinton is believed to have a slight edge in New York. Failure to win would leave him looking terribly weak and give rise to a welter of speculation about new entrants, a brokered convention or the return of Paul Tsongas. The former Massachusetts senator remains on the New York ballot despite his withdrawal from the race last month.

HILLARY'S REVENGE

How city saw Hillary Clinton's remarks

Clinton's blow the gaffe

FROM CHARLES BRENNER

IN NEW YORK

JUST when Bill Clinton, the governor of Arkansas, spotted the light at the end of New York's political tunnel of horrors, his wife, Hillary, detonated a furor by complaining that President Bush had kept a mistress and had got away scot-free.

Apologies and contrition poured from the Clinton campaign yesterday after Mrs Clinton, who depicts herself as co-candidate for the presidency, attempted to extricate herself from remarks that provoked guffaws in the Big Apple but backfired in the hinterland. "It was a mistake," said Mrs Clinton. "I did not mean to be hurtful to anyone."

Mrs Clinton's gaffe came in an interview with *Vanity Fair* magazine in which she boiled over at what she sees as a double standard by the media: they mercilessly scrutinise the infidelities of her husband, who is alleged to have had an affair with Jennifer Flowers, while they steered clear of old rumours about Mr Bush. These involved a British-born woman named Jennifer, aged 59, who now works for the State Department. The stories were denied when they briefly surfaced during the 1988 campaign.

"They're gonna circle the wagons on Jennifer and all these other people," Mrs Clinton said, speaking of the establishment.

To the despair of the Clintons, the remarks have driven more serious matters out of the New York popular media days before the vote tomorrow.

ISRAEL'S ruling Likud party yesterday narrowly averted a serious rift within its leadership, when David Levy, the foreign minister, withdrew his threat to resign after an eleventh-hour compromise with Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister.

In a classic display of Israeli political brinkmanship, Mr Shamir and his mienous deputy announced that they had patched up their differences only minutes before the weekly cabinet meeting at which Mr Levy had vowed to tender his resignation. "I am happy to announce to the cabinet members that we reached an agreement this morning in the dispute between us," Mr Shamir said. "The foreign minister will, of

Arabs seek a way out for Libya

As Gadaffi grows more bellicose, Arab leaders are trying to contain Muslim anger, Christopher Walker writes from Cairo

ARAB foreign ministers are to meet in emergency session in Cairo tomorrow in a last-ditch attempt to devise a face-saving formula to avert the imposition of United Nations sanctions against Libya from April 15. The ministers from the seven-nation committee set up by the Arab League in an effort to resolve the impasse have been snubbed by Colonel Muammar Gadaffi who withdrew an offer to hand over the two Lockerbie suspects to them.

Since then, his attitude has grown more bellicose and uncompromising. The Cairo initiative takes place amid growing anxiety in the Arab world about the possible destabilising effects against countries with moderate Islamic regimes like Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco which have hinted that they will implement the UN sanctions.

The league negotiations will be matched by a visit to Tripoli later this week by Vladimir Petrovsky, the UN undersecretary-general.

The diplomatic action has taken on new urgency because of Libya's determination to transform the worsening situation into a struggle between Muslims and Christians, a tactic tried by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq during the Gulf war.

Despite blood-curdling rhetoric, the Libyan leader has made clear that the two suspects, both intelligence agents, are free to surrender to either the Arab League or the UN. Variations on this idea will prove the main substance of this week's diplomatic manoeuvring.

"If the United States and Britain give Gadaffi guarantees that he personally is not the 'big fish' in the Lockerbie affair, then there is a slight hope of a breakthrough by finding a formula to hand the suspect to the Arab League," an Arab diplomat in Tripoli said.

In a fiery speech on Saturday, Colonel Gadaffi defiantly dismissed the threatened sanctions and urged Muslims to "sharpen their swords" to resist a new crusade against Islam from the Christian West. "Muslims all over the world, the battle being waged by modern Western crusading forces, having ended against communism, is now being directed against Islam," he told 3,000 Libyans in the capital's main square.

As people shouted *Allahu Akbar* (God is Great), the white-robed leader told them: "We, too, have to beat the drums and close ranks and sharpen our swords and get

Prayer leader: Colonel Gadaffi appearing at dawn prayers in Tripoli to mark the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting, before making a fiery weekend speech

ready for the confrontation." By playing the Islamic card, Colonel Gadaffi has increased pressure for protest against sanctions to spread to other Arab nations.

Invoking cries of *Jihad* (holy war), the Libyan leader marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan. "If they resist us, we will resort to arms and automatic guns and barricades. There will be guns and trenches, a line of fire between us and them."

The similarity between the Lockerbie impasse and the Gulf war has been noted by many commentators. *Al-Ahram*, the Cairo daily, denounced Libya's threat to damage Western economic interests and to stop Westerners from leaving as "a gross miscalculation and failure to understand the new world — they are the same mad acts committed by Saddam".

The Libyan leader, worried that any trial could expose the involvement of his secret service in the Lockerbie attack, declared: "Resolution 748 is baseless and thus it is rejected. Libya has not threatened world peace and committed no aggression against other countries. The resolution

course, continue his presence in the government."

However, party peace was bought at an expensive price for the Likud leader, who promised in writing that Mr Levy would remain foreign minister in the next government and would have the right to appoint a supporter of his choice to the cabinet. Mr Shamir also agreed to place Levy supporters in key government posts in the Knesset. Likud executive committees and to the board of the Jewish Agency, the quasi-governmental organisation responsible for Jewish immigration to Israel.

"I received everything I asked for," Mr Levy said at a press conference. "He told his cabinet colleagues in an

angry outburst that the agreement had only caused further damage to the party.

The ruling party can ill afford such public displays of disunity, particularly as an opinion poll released on Friday showed the opposition Labour party increasing its lead over Likud. The poll conducted for the Hebrew daily *Hadashot*, said if elections were held today, Labour under its new leader, Yitzhak Rabin, would win 46 seats against Likud's 31. It also showed that Labour would be able to form a working coalition in the 120-seat Knesset.

Although Mr Levy's continued presence in the government might improve Likud's standing, particularly among his fellow Sephardi supporters,

ers of oriental descent, the week-long leadership row has left an unpleasant after-taste with many would-be Likud supporters.

"The big question is whether the damage inside Likud can be cured by the compromise," Reuven Rivlin, a Likud Knesset member and Levy supporter, said. "We have survived many crises in the past and I hope we can do it again. We believe in miracles here in Jerusalem — we have a direct line to God, it's a local call," he said.

• *Curfew lifted:* The Israeli army lifted a curfew on more than 120,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, four days after the army shot dead four Palestinians and wounded scores in Rafah. (Reuters)

TV elite in China get a touch of real life

Peking: Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, was shown yesterday on evening television news shovelling dirt and planting trees. The hard labour was not punishment for his recent failure to support the senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, but meant to show him as a man of the people (Catherine Sampson writes).

The public relations exercise dictated that he only had to be shown digging for a few seconds, before he was shown resting, as if exhausted. But for others, like the 100 employees of the state-run television station who were recently reported to have been sent to live with peasants in Liaoning province, the rural stint sounds like a bad joke.

As city-bred yuppies, journalists and editors have no particular desire to rough it in the countryside. But they have no choice in the matter. It was the late Chairman Mao who decided that those who were getting too big for their boots should be brought down to earth ... literally, and thousands were sent to the countryside in the mid-1960s. The practice has been making a comeback after the backlash against the pro-democracy movement in 1989.

Loan expected

Peking: The World Bank is expected to provide China with its single largest loan of £285 million by next March to help it develop a national grain distribution network that would be governed by market forces, the *China Daily* reported. (AFP)

West defied

Havana: President Castro told young Communists here that Cuba would not destroy itself like the former Soviet Union and Cubans would rather die than accept capitalism. Cuba was committed to its one-party communist system, he said. (Reuters)

EC appeals

Ho Chi Minh City: The European Community is launching an appeal for donations to a £72 million scheme to help Vietnam take back

A vote against the Eighties

Punishment of the Tories is the key electoral factor, argues Peter Riddell

Yesterday morning I spent an hour or so with a canvasser touring a council-owned block of flats in north London a couple of hundred yards from Highgate cemetery, where Karl Marx is buried. The response was not bad for Labour once you adjusted for people out, not coming to their doors or still in bed. Glenda Jackson should be confident.

But I wondered what the old sage would have thought. I did not get the impression from this or previous outings that today's workers share Marx's view of their lot, that they have nothing to lose but their chains, and a world to gain. Faster action to modernise the flats and end the sharing of bathrooms and lavatories by four households would help, but present-day workers are not expecting a revolution.

If Labour becomes the largest single party this Thursday, it will mainly be a negative judgment by voters on the Tories, not an endorsement of a radical programme. Labour leaders are in danger of being misled into exaggerating the electorate's enthusiasm. Thursday's performance certainly looks like being the party's best since October 1974, if not 1970, with a rise of a quarter in votes cast since 1987. No wonder local canvassers are delighted and morale is high. But Labour's total vote has slipped since the start of the campaign and there is little of the sense of an exciting new beginning evident in 1945 and 1964. It is much more "get the Tories out".

The Tories could still be the largest single party in a hung parliament. But even if they are, the party will still have lost the argument for much of the campaign. Continual carping about Conservative Central Office by former media advisers and disgruntled candidates misses the point. Shooting the messenger is always more fun than thinking about the message. The Conservatives' weaknesses are less to do with mistakes made during the campaign than with their having been in power for 13 years. The Tories started from a weak position.

In many ways Labour's most powerful poster was its early one, "If they can't get it right in 13 years, they never will". Grievances have built up since 1979 among all kinds of special interests. It was never going to be easy for the Tories to win a fourth term, but the timing could not have been worse. The long recession, and associated difficulties in the housing market, have come as a shock, especially to those in the south who never expected to lose their jobs, or become afraid of doing so. They are the people who feel let down by the government, in spite of all its earlier achievements in taming the unions and reducing inflation.

In so far as there is a mood for change it reflects these doubts and a belief that Labour is the better party to tackle the present priorities of health and education. But

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

neither from the polls nor anecdotal do I get any sense that expectations are high about what a Labour government might achieve. That is why voters need express reservations about Neil Kinnock as a potential prime minister, and about what Labour would do in office.

If Labour has succeeded during the campaign in offsetting some of these doubts with its simple "time for change" theme, the Tories have failed to offer a similar coherence. Given the inherent difficulties of the recession and the poll tax, the Tories needed to offer a positive justification for a fourth term. As I argued three weeks ago, endless attacks on Labour over tax and emphasis on John Major's personal decency would not be enough. This is not just a matter of presentation tactics. The message has often been muddled when lengthy statements by Mr Major on his vision for the 1990s – broadening ownership and choice for more people, the "open-door society" – have been heavily overshadowed by simultaneous Tory attacks on the other parties.

The real Tory difficulty is the more fundamental one of redefining itself in the aftermath of Margaret Thatcher. Are voters being offered a continuation of the old regime under younger management or a new government with different priorities? Part of the Tories' quandary is that Mr Major often thinks and behaves like a chief whip, conciliating and minimising differences. These qualities have made him an adept leader both of his cabinet and of Tory MPs over the past 16 months. He has successfully avoided splits over the replacement of the poll tax and over Europe. Mr Major has proved to be an impressive prime minister.

But his political skills have not produced a coherent vision for the 1990s. Compromise blurs rather than clarifies. Too often Mr Major talks like a minister; a Treasury accountant offering sensible suggestions rather than a political leader inspiring his followers. Only in the past few days has he started, at a news conference on Saturday and in his interview yesterday with David Frost, to talk eloquently about the importance of threats to the constitution from proposals on Scottish devolution, proportional representation and European union.

The need for strong government based on the Westminster parliament is a very traditional Conservative theme. And constitutional issues may have a central place in the politics of the 1990s. But I am not sure that the electorate is yet listening; it is still more concerned with punishing the Tories for the failures of the 1980s.

'Too often Mr Major talks like a minister, a Treasury accountant rather than a political leader'

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Why look in the crystal ball when you can read the book?" Neil Kinnock remarked to a fortune teller recently. Indeed. But why read the book when you can sample the menu? In an attempt to gather auguries for Thursday, I have obtained the favourite recipe of each of the three main party leaders.

I did so under deep cover. Requesting a signed copy of the recipe to raise funds for a good cause, I omitted in my letter the name of the cause and – I do confess – failed to acknowledge that I am not registered for charity. But in every case my request received a personal response. I should like to thank the three leaders for their efforts, which touched me. They must have so much on their plates. I also admit that my name is not Christopher Hope. I was less than frank.

But it is unwitting testimony that reveals most. I did not want John Major to be on guard when telling me about his bacon risotto. I preferred Paddy Ashdown to be frank about his tuna bake. And it was important that, setting out his plans for roast Welsh lamb, Mr Kinnock suspected nothing.

I do think roast lamb is a cop-out. What does it reveal about a politician when his favourite dish turns out to be something he didn't invent, create or put together himself – but took, ready-made, from its own mother, coated with a little garnish and plonked straight into the oven? Mr Kinnock also

suggested that it would improve the package to smear it with a little honey first. Ho-hum.

And why Welsh lamb, eh? What's wrong with English lamb? Does this signal future strains in Labour's relations with New Zealand? Suspicions were reinforced by the Labour leader's decision to offer advice on temperature settings first in continental measure.

Most worrying, however, is the question of cost. Mr Kinnock's dish was by far the most expensive of the three. Lamb is not cheap. Where's the money going to come from? On this, as on so much else, his recipe is silent. I pronounce that bit of gravy-robbing came out in the end, either: a tasteless lynching

Country music's ascendancy represents a new US national mood, says Charles Bremner

Stand by your twang

Mention country and western music and a set of images probably springs to mind: cowboys, twangy guitars and corny lines about whisky, cheatin', havin' and truck drivin'. Unless you have been in America lately, you might not expect exponents of the genre to equate their work with Renaissance minstrels or to find professors lecturing on the existential angst of an opus that includes titles such as "Your Daddy Ain't in Heaven, He's in Houston" or "She's Aggin' Single and I'm Drivin' Doubles". They are doing so because country music has surged over the past two or three years from a minority cult, enjoyed mainly by lowerbowdier whitemen of the heartlands, to become the dominant mainstream musical form, a veritable soundtrack for America in the 1990s.

Country has adapted to the new age of abstinence and gone suburban. Turn on one of the country television networks or radio stations and you will find warnings of the dangers of drink and hymns to the joys of marriage in songs such as Travis Tritt's "The Whiskey Ain't Workin'" and "Two of a Kind Workin' on a Full House", a hit by Garth Brooks, the present

superstar. Even when alcohol does enter the picture, the hero no longer knocks back the Old Grandad but can be found "sippin' some wine from a coffee cup".

According to Bill Ivey, director of the Country Music Foundation, the extraordinary popularity of country shows that Americans have realised that they're going to have to live like grown-ups. In one among a welter of recent analyses, *Forbes* magazine said the phenomenon "suggests that American popular culture is taking a new, healthier direction".

This is not to suggest that Americans have taken to seeing themselves as lonesome divorcees swigging tequila at truck-stops. County has adapted to the new age of abstinence and gone suburban. Turn on one of the country television networks or radio stations and you will find warnings of the dangers of drink and hymns to the joys of marriage in songs such as Travis Tritt's "The Whiskey Ain't Workin'" and "Two of a Kind Workin' on a Full House", a hit by Garth Brooks, the present

superhero. Despite the new sensibility, many of the old conventions remain, allowing Americans whose most macho act is a drive to the shopping centre to see themselves as rugged loners wielding sardonic metaphors against the malice of fate. Mr Brooks has made millions by crossing the yuppie blues with the myths of old. One minute he is lamenting marital discord in the suburbs: "We Bury the Hatchet, but Leave the Handle Stickin' Out". A song later, he is back to the tale of a jealous truck drivin' daddy: "Mama's in the Graveyard, Papa's in the Pen [territory]".

Sniff as they might, there is little that the arbiters of the avant-garde can do about this lunge for the lowbrow. For the moment, the culturally hip have been joinin' them rather than beatin' them, adopting cowboy boots and pick-up trucks for their *outings* in Greenwich Village. However, most are aware that the country boom is a rallying cry for middle America against the coasts. Waylon Jennings, dean of the outlaw school of country, gives sarcastic voice to this in his new record entitled: "I'm Too Dumb for New York City and Too Ugly for L.A."

They come to bury history

Bernard Levin
lays a curse on the Japanese trying to tidy up one of life's mysteries

The names of Mallory and Irvine have gone into history. They were the two mountaineers, members of the 1924 Everest expedition, who died in the assault on the then unconquered peak. Some experts, including other members of the team, believe that the two heroes did succeed in reaching the crown, but had left too little time to return to safety, and fell to their deaths as darkness descended; some years later, an ice axe was found on a slope, reinforcing the hypothesis of a fatal stumble. No epitaph could improve on Mallory's words: asked by a non-mountaineer why they wanted to climb Everest, he replied, "Because it's there".

So it is, and so they are, buried for ever beneath the eternal snow; a fitting tomb. But a few years ago a Japanese expedition set out for Everest; they naturally wanted to climb the giant, but they had what they called a "primary objective", which was to search for the bodies of Mallory and Irvine. I can find no further news of the Japanese climbers, and I have had a struggle with myself not to hope that they fell off and broke their necks. For if that is what they wanted to search Everest for, I cannot think of a more exact definition of sacrifice.

Not long ago I reported, in something close to rage, that fragments of bone and tissue which were found when Abraham Lincoln was shot, and which had been fittingly housed in the appropriate museum, were to be examined by "researchers" (read busybodies) to discover whether his genes were responsible for his great height and gangling movements. I don't know how bit of grave-robbing came out in the end, either: a tasteless lynching

would have fitted the bill. But now another expedition is in progress to defile the dead, and this one, I think, is the worst, though the dead in this case were never alive.

In November 1969 I wrote here about my visit to Easter Island; it was among the most moving and memorable experiences of my life.

To wonder among those mighty figures, which hundreds of years ago proudly ringed the tiny island, is to be overwhelmed in some unfathomable catastrophe, provided for a lifetime of study.

Now I read that another cabal of grave-robbing Japanese are going to Easter Island to examine the figures with a view to seeing if they can be dug out of the earth in which they have been embedded for (archaeologists differ) at least 350 years, possibly more than 1,200, and re-erected.

And what makes this invasion of the giant stone cemetery much worse is that the Chilean government (Easter Island is a Chilean dependency) has given the Japanese nose-pokers permission and encouragement instead of telling them to take their oisole and wicked proposal and drop it down the crater of Mount Fuji.

Wicked? Let me make good that claim. Those astounding figures, some weighing hundreds of tons, were placed round the island for a purpose that can never now be known. Whether they were tutelary deities or stylised memorials to their ancestors, or an art-form, or guardians of the island – any guess is as good or bad as any other. Their overthrow was apparently abrupt; there were figures in the quarries ready to be taken to their places; there were half-finished figures that were abandoned; there were figures left lying in the earth in which they had been – must have been – devoted to quarrying, carving and siting them, came to an end. Then

the centuries took over; the volcanic rock slowly ground the fallen figures into the earth; it was a truly profound experience to sit among those immobile faces and bodies, and to speculate fruitlessly as to who were the builders and carvers. And why, having built and carved with such pain, sweat and purpose, they utterly undid the work of their hands.

Can you think of a better reason to leave Easter Island alone, and above all to leave the figures where they fell? The builders had no modern tools and indeed practically no ancient ones either. Yet the blocks of stone from which the plinths are made have been fitted together so finely that it is impossible to get a knife-blade between them. And now a band of pestilential trespassers, encouraged by the Chilean authorities, want to drag the figures upright and lumber them on to the great platforms where they were resting places.

Is there no reverence for death

left in our world? If a man is dead and buried, can he not lie easy for the thought that some clown, armed with a permission, will come and dig him up to measure his ears, elbows and knees in support of a meaningless theory? And that is no exaggeration, much less a joke: have you forgotten the creature who demanded the opening of Shakespeare's tomb in the quest for proof that Bacon wrote the works of the imposter?

I asked if there was any reverence for death, but there is another question in this matter: is there any reverence for the past itself? And if there is, should the past be left alone with its years or centuries? Easter Island does, literally, inspire awe: do you suppose that when the tidy experts ("experts", forsooth, in the unknown and unknowable) have done their work, and put all the statues in perfectly straight lines, not forgetting to replace with a carefully measured nose a figure that had lost its original in the *dies irae*, and when they have aligned all the platforms and placed all the statues neatly on them, lowering them carefully with the most advanced make of cranes, and when they have tidily given them a good scraping and a final polish – do you think, that there will be any room for awe on Easter Island?

Leave Mallory and Irvine alone; leave Lincoln alone; leave even Bacon alone; do, do, leave Easter Island and its mysteries alone. You cannot solve them: every possible notion has been pressed into service, and no explorer of any of them has finished wiser than he started. We do not know who these people were, nor what they meant by the statues they made, nor why they one day destroyed them.

And why should we know? To diminish the world's mysteries and replace them by lifeless certainties? To leave no stone unturned, not even one? To proclaim that knowledge is all, so that we need not seek understanding?

If you must dig up something, gentlemen, go dig up the tombs of your ancestors. But if you dig up Easter Island, may Tutankhamun's curse fall upon you, together with one of the heaviest of statutes. Desist; and be awed.

Once derided by Edward Heath as the "unacceptable face of capitalism", Bower says: "I will be fair and objective. I will try to uncover the truth because Rowland is a man who tries to shroud his activities." Bower does at least have a certain admiration for Rowland, which was hardly the case with

I think it's Tom Bower

When Lord Marbles last week, the sculptor of the 1801 statue of the Duke of Wellington, smashed an arm of the statue from the base. It was a £100,000 bronze casting.

Mr Kinnock, in a speech last week, promised he would not interfere in the arts, case is essential who less than a year ago removed a statue from the base of the statue.

When Edward Heath, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, was told that the statue of the Duke of Wellington had been removed from the base of the statue, he responded by saying: "It's a pity that the Duke of Wellington has been removed from the base of the statue."

After last week's publication of the Department of Transport's enquiry into the sinking of the Titanic, the 80th anniversary of April 14, with the world's largest sale of Titanic memorabilia by auction, more than 250 lots include items salvaged by survivors, letters mailed on the fateful voyage, and four sets of keys to the ship's main rooms from the pocket of survivor Samuel Hemming, the ship's Lamp Trimmer. Most poignant is a letter written on board by a first-class passenger, Adolphe Saalfeld, "but for a slight vibration you would not know that you were at sea."

Mandelson on stand-by

ONE OF the many tricky decisions pending for Neil Kinnock as he begins to think about the possibility of life in Downing Street is what to do with Peter Mandelson.

Kinnock is keen to reward Mandelson, one of the principal architects of Labour's revival, by having him at his side after a Labour victory. But an immediate promotion to the frontbench for the candidate for Hartlepool is virtually ruled out by both party and Whitehall protocol. The civil service would be hostile to the appointment of a minister without prior parliamentary experience. So would large sections of the Labour benches, including frontbenchers such as Michael Meacher and John Prescott, with whom Mandelson fell out when he was the party's campaign director.

The Labour leader, however, is considering an ingenious solution: appointing Mandelson his PPS. If Mandelson was given the job few doubt that he would rapidly turn it into one of the most powerful posts in the leader's team. Kinnock's present PPS is Adam Ingram, a Scot whose services would be much in demand in an expanded Scottish Office.

Mandelson would have access to affairs of state from which he would otherwise be excluded, would accompany Kinnock on foreign trips, and would be almost constantly at the side of Charles Clarke, the man tipped to head Kinnock's private office.

"It is the one job he could do where his lack of parliamentary experience would not matter," says a Labour man. "It would allow him to operate at the centre of events without treading on everyone's toes."

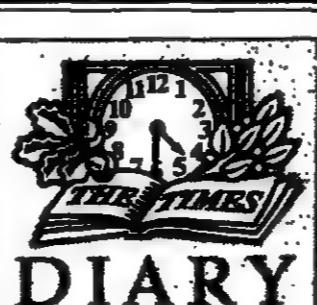
Soap box

THE ARCHERS are showing impressive political foresight, thanks to some shrewd thinking by Vanessa Whiburn, the programme's editor. Addicks will be able to hear all about Ambridge's day at the polls on Thursday even though the programme was recorded before John Major announced the election. Whiburn explains the trick. "We just guessed the prime minister would go for April 9 and slipped in a couple of references that could

have been deftly removed with the help of a razor blade."

There will even be a reference to the winner during Friday evening's programme although it was recorded last month. "I have lined up a writer and actors to do a last minute addition," Whiburn says.

Diary



In the event of a Kinnock government, the Mandelson-Clarke axis would mean something of a reunion. The two were close colleagues in student politics in the late 1970s. They also lived in neighbouring streets as children, although neither knew it until their paths crossed again at university.

With three days to go a variety of misleading, mendacious and ludicrous leaflets are landing on voters' doormats. Can any constituency exceed the tally of 13 errors in the missive sent out for Peter Telford, Labour's man in Plymouth Drake? Post, fax, phone your most horrible examples to us by Wednesday and the *Diary* will award its prizes on polling day.

Tom on Tiny

THE MAN who dared to uncover the murky side of Robert Maxwell long before his death has now turned his attention to that other entrepreneurial titan, Tiny Rowland. Tom Bower, who was hounded through the courts by Maxwell when he published his unauthorised biography, promises a "warts and all" look at the man

responsible for the ship's Lamp Trimmer. Most poignant is a letter written on board by a first-class passenger, Adolphe Saalfeld, "but for a slight vibration you would not know that you were at sea."

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PADDY'S BLACKMAIL

The opinion polls are suggesting that by this Friday Paddy Ashdown will be kingmaker. He has spent the weekend saying that he will only make king after this election one who is prepared to defer to Lib-Dem kingmaking after every future election, in other words one who promises proportional representation.

There is no justification for this blackmail, which both main parties have more or less indicated they will resist. Mr Ashdown claims that the message of the electorate in a hung parliament is electoral reform. This is not only nonsense — for that to be the message, the Liberal Democrats would need by not voting down its measures, or suffer the agony of forcing a second election at which they would certainly do worse.

Mr Ashdown's refusal to soften his demand on PR is now the obstacle in the way of the rest of what he wants. He said yesterday he seeks a coalition, with a seat for himself and a couple of colleagues in the cabinet. He wants negotiation between the coalition partners to decide on a programme, and he talks of such a government surviving four or five years. He has begun to hint at what else he might insist on — such as the amelioration of Labour's "swinging tax rates" — as the price of his participation.

The public may be tempted to think that a Lib-Lab pact or coalition presents the best way of ousting the Tories after a lacklustre campaign, and so vote for the Liberal Democrats in the hope of achieving it. Such a prospect might appeal to a party that has long been relegated to the status of also-ran.

But Mr Ashdown is in danger of putting at risk in pursuit of something he calls "fair voting" but which most people will regard as unfair leverage for him. The irresponsibility of this leverage is plain within the politically unstable nations that already use proportional representation. Britain has been given a hint of such chaos in Mr Ashdown's antics over the past few days. He has fought a lively campaign. He has not justified a claim to participate in the counsels of government.

RETREAT FROM MAASTRICHT

In the past four months, Britain's political standing in the rest of Europe has undergone a reversal. It is one the voters might care to note on Thursday. Ostensibly the odd man out (though not in private) at the Maastricht summit last year, John Major is today enjoying an unexpected popularity on the Continent as an effective European.

Mr Major has not changed his views. What has happened is that Europe's other leaders have shifted steadily towards him. Whichever party wins the election, Britain will almost certainly ratify the Maastricht treaty before any of its EC partners. A bill will be ready to be presented to Parliament before the summer recess and will probably be voted through in the early autumn.

The British preference for arguing fiercely about European matters, negotiating toughly and then honouring the resulting settlement arouses acute envy in continental states where no such process obtains. M Jacques Delors fulsomely praised the vigour of Britain's Maastricht debate the other day on French television. *Les Bréniques*, he insisted, had the most open-minded debate to be found in the entire Community. He has reason to worry. No sooner was the ink dry on the treaty and noisy dispute about federalism salied than the EC siftered into querulous gloom.

Most striking of all has been the sharp change of mood in Germany. At Maastricht Chancellor Kohl was the confident manufacturer of the final fudge. Now he and his ministers are having to defend several European fronts at once. The Bundesbank issues a stream of sceptical warnings about the economic risks of a single currency to which Germany and ten other states are now committed by the treaty. Editorials lament the prospective abolition of the deutschmark. Britain's option to escape monetary union, bitterly criticised by Labour and by other

RETURN THE MARBLES

When Lord Elgin embarked upon removing the sculptures from the Parthenon after 1801 his intention was to save one of the great treasures of the ancient world for posterity. The marbles had been plundered, smashed and used as building material for centuries. Lord Elgin legally shipped the statues from Athens and sold them to Britain, for £36,000, just half his total expenses.

Mr Kinnock's remarks to Sir Robin Day last week that "the place for the Elgin Marbles is in the Parthenon", repeated a promise he made to a former Greek minister for the arts, Melina Mercouri, in 1985. His case is essentially the same as Lord Byron's, who less than ten years after the marbles had been removed heard a prophetic remark from a Western-educated Greek: "You English are carrying off the works of the Greeks, our forefathers. Preserve them well. We Greeks will come and redeem them."

When Elgin removed the marbles Athens was a town of just 10,000, an obscure corner of the Ottoman empire. He brought them to a city where they would be looked after and viewed by a large and interested public. The British Museum has proved an ideal custodian of the statues, caring for them and displaying them in a handsome gallery. In modern Athens the authorities promise they will be carefully preserved in a new gallery close to the Parthenon.

For the Greeks the marbles have a unique resonance: the Parthenon is a symbol of the cultural unity and continuity of their nation: Greece's Crown Jewels. The value of the marbles to Greece is incomparably greater than it is to the British. Yet the Trustees of the British Museum have long argued that their responsibility to preserve them is inalienable and to return them to Greece would open the floodgates of endless demands for the return

of cultural artefacts that would leave their display cases bare.

There is a clear distinction between valuable artefacts and treasures of intense national significance. If historians and antiquarians cannot tell the difference, then somebody else should do so for them. There are few objects so closely bound up with a nation's sense of identity as the marbles. (The Ashanti regalia also hoarded by the British Museum is another case in point.) St Stephen's Crown has been returned from America to Hungary. If by break of history the Stone of Scone was held abroad the Scots would rightly assert a claim.

The Elgin Marbles have been well cared for by Britain, but other ancient objects have fared less well. Cleopatra's Needle, the 1500 BC obelisk, stands unprotected on the Embankment under constant attack from motor fumes and other pollution. "Cleopatra's Needle should be in a museum in Cairo," says the Egyptian embassy's cultural councillor. The moral claim to be a rich treasure-house of art from throughout the world must rest upon a commitment to conserve and properly display.

Why in any case should the art of a nation be incarcerated in one place for all time, at home or abroad? The best museums of the future will be those prepared to clear out their cellars, trade their objects and improve their collections. Nothing is more stifling than the fashion for treating collections as fixed and permanent. It has made museums moribund, their collections augmented only when they can squeeze money out of governments to pay soaring prices for a dwindling stock of artefacts. In the realm of art nowhere is more hogwash talked than on this topic. The marbles should be returned and the cobwebs of museum curatorship swept aside.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SWEETING.
Hill Farm, Little Rissington,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Consequences of minimum wage and higher tax rate

From the Chairman of the British Clothing Industry Association

Sir, It is widely suggested that all our competitor countries in the EC have a national minimum wage. On the contrary, according to information from the CBI, Income Data Services and the Community itself, only six out of the 12 EC countries have a specific national minimum wage — namely, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. In the other EC countries there is a mixture of legally enforceable collective agreements, statutory provisions for certain groups and no statutory measures at all.

Even those countries which do have a national minimum wage exclude certain categories of workers. The UK is not the odd one out.

A national minimum of £3.40 per hour would be disastrous for those sectors of the UK economy covered by wages councils. Wages council orders cover over four million people.

In the clothing industry, for example, payment systems are generally incentive-based and the vast majority of workers already earn in excess of £3.40 an hour. A national minimum of that level would dramatically reduce the incentive element and force employers to increase total wages to retain productivity and output. This could increase the wage bill by as much as 25 per cent.

Such an increase could be recovered by our customers, the retailers, paying more and in turn passing the increase onto their customers. That would be highly inflationary. In practice retailers, who are also directly affected by the national minimum wage proposal, would substitute imports for their UK supplies, at the cost of British jobs. These job losses are likely to run into tens of thousands — surely a terrible price to pay for Labour's national proposed minimum wage policy.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES McADAM, Chairman,
British Clothing Industry
Association Ltd.,
7 Swallow Place, W1.

April 3.

Labour's target for growth in science and technology

From the Labour party spokesman on science and technology

Sir, It is not the eminent scientists writing in your column (March 23) who have been curiously fanciful, as Mr Alan Howarth, the Conservative minister with responsibility for science, alleges, but himself (letter, March 27).

For the past 13 years no Conservative minister has gone round visiting British scientists at work in academia and in industry with an open mind and the understanding to see what they were actually able to do by comparison with similar scientists working abroad.

Had he done so, Mr Howarth would know that British scientists are not being meadowlarks in what they say about the handicaps under which they work. He would know why they get angry at his bandying about of inappropriate statistics. As it is Mr Howarth is not even prepared to defend his stewardship of science in meetings with scientists during the election to which we were both invited.

Mr Howarth says government must fund basic science out of the fruits of economic growth. He does not understand that basic research is a pre-condition of growth in a healthy modern industrial society. If it is to respond sensitively to changing social, economic and environmental circumstances. And it is an essential element in the culture of modern society.

With the rapidly moving frontiers of science and technology, a country which does not have an adequate basic research effort soon finds it loses the flow of people and ideas

which keep a technologically advanced society alive. We are well behind the intensity of basic science funding in our institutionally most similar neighbours, France and Germany.

Near market research, he says, is the responsibility of the private sector. If so it is letting the government down badly. Industry funded civil research and development is 1.2 per cent of GDP in the UK, 1.42 per cent in the US, 1.92 per cent in Germany and 2.9 per cent in Japan.

The latest figures for the UK just published by the Central Statistical Office show an actual fall in real terms in both defence and civil R&D in industry.

The number of scientists working in defence R&D in industry fell by 3,000 in one year. But far from switching those research scientists to civil R&D to build up our much needed technological competitiveness, the number of scientists working in civil R&D also fell by 2,000. And that was in 1990, before the recession really bit. The industrial effect we have seen in the severe attrition of the British electronic and aerospace industries.

Labour has set the target of increasing our civil R&D from the present 1.8 per cent of GDP to 2.5 per cent, approaching that of our competitors. Most of it must be in civil R&D carried out in industry and paid for by industry, with the comprehensive set of incentives and support measures which we have proposed.

But support for the science base must be increased at the same time. It has suffered severe attrition, and if

I am sure that if the duds in the universities which receive little money for research give their minds to the subject, they will be able to find many worthwhile projects to investigate.

Some sort of research may be bartered to them, but if they can be as productive as the duds in the Thirties, they may in some cases advance knowledge more than many of those who are costing the state so much.

Yours etc.,
KENNETH MELLANBY,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

March 31.

Russians and business

From Mr Eric Pillinger

Sir, Bernard Levin's article ("What about the workers?", March 30), eloquently explains the difficulties of everyday life in Russia. While not disagreeing with his basic points I am happy to be able to give a brighter picture of Russian prospects.

I recently returned from running a five-day course at a Moscow business school for some 30 managers. They were younger than I expected (average age 35 years); they were cheerful, positive and humorous; they knew much more about management/marketing/financial principles than I had expected, although they were the first to admit that they needed some guidance in applying the principles; they were politely challenging but very open-minded; some of them had marvellous technology in their companies; they were highly motivated; they were also personally charming, friendly and hospitable.

In short, the standard of participation was as high as I have experienced with any similar group in any other country, and noticeably higher than some.

Yours faithfully,
E. PILLINGER
(Managing Director),
TACK Training International Ltd.,
TACK House,
Longmoor Street, SW1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Tiger hunting

From Mr Ronald Balaam

Sir, You printed a photograph (March 28) of "hunters subduing a wild tiger near the Siberian city of Khabarovsk". How wretchedly little time change for tigers.

Picture Post for February 4, 1939, ran a four-page account of Khabarovsk's tiger-hunter G. Kalugin and his catch of Ursus tigers. Your caption glowingly describes "hunters subduing a wild tiger bare-handed".

but it put more credence in the 1939 account: "Harried by men and dogs, never allowed to pause for a second,

the tiger becomes exhausted. The dogs head it off and the men begin to overtire it. They prepare to pin it down with their stout wooden forks".

The photographs, 53 years apart, have one thing in common: humans are tormenting a terrified animal to make money. And the part of your caption that really sticks in the throat is: "sent to zoos around the world for breeding purposes", since the Ursus tiger obviously manages to breed in Siberia without such fine altrism.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD BALAAM,
83 Overdale, Ashtead, Surrey.

March 31.

Aid for Albania

From Mr James Potts

Sir, In response to Sir John Stokes's letter (March 27) on aid for Albania, I write to inform you that, as of April 6, there will be an official British presence in Tirana, albeit a solitary one.

Barbara Hyde will be British Council English language teaching adviser based at the University of Tirana, where there will also be a British Council resource centre. A lorry of books and equipment for the centre leaves Britain for Tirana shortly.

This is only a beginning but we hope it will be a catalyst for more initiatives — and soon.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES POTTS (Head, East and Central Europe Department),
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1.

March 31.

BDs in EL

From Mr Graham Bird

Sir, As an interested observer of the ever-changing English language (EL), I note with concern the rapid spread of unnecessary bracketed abbreviations (UBAs) and pointless hyphens (PHs). If these features continue to proliferate at their present rate (P.R.), I predict that by the end-of-the-decade, almost every phrase will be pointlessly-hyphenated-and-unecessarily-abbreviated (PHAUAs). And this-is-to-say-nothing of that other curious phenomenon (CP), the widespread-insertion-of-redundant-apostrophe's ('KA's) into many plurals. Can you confirm, Sir, that these bizarre developments (BD's) are true signs-of-the-times?

Yours etc.,
GRAHAM BIRD,
44 Ravensmead Way, W4.

April 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Political shyness on world poverty

From the Director of Christian Aid

Sir,

The Labour and Liberal Democrat parties have each given us detailed and enlightened responses to some serious questions about world poverty which we and five other leading aid agencies raised through your correspondence columns on March 20. You, Sir, have also published shorter replies from Labour (Mrs Clwyd, March 25) and the Conservatives (Mrs Chalker, April 3). Why then are the parties so shy about voicing their concerns to the electorate?

Is it, as leading churchmen have suggested in relation to urban decay (letter, March 31), the lack of social and ethical vision? Does this lack of vision extend further, to a failure to address the root causes of a world increasingly out of kilter, whether in terms of the environment or endemic divisions between rich and poor? Or is it simply about not taking the electorate seriously enough?

The responses we received from the Liberal Democrats and Labour would make me conclude that neither of those parties are without vision. In relation to world poverty many of the issues are well understood and well defined and there are some sensible suggestions for ways forward. But to what extent can commitments to future action be taken seriously when, like urban decay, they do not even begin to feature in the daily media jamboree?

The tragedy of current electioneering is the extent to which it assumes no sensitivity on the part of the electorate to the other priorities that exist beyond our own pockets and our own lives. Yet the same electorate constantly shows through its response to charitable and other needs, as well as opinion polls on broader social issues, that it has a clear vision and is actually interested in investing in a better world for all. Why don't the parties seize on this and challenge us to be true to our better selves?

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL TAYLOR,

Christian Aid,

PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

Party commitments

From Sir Fitzroy Maclean

Sir,

More than once over the years the Labour party has, on coming to power, fulfilled a number of its commitments. Under clause four of its constitution it is still, as far as I know, expressly committed to nationalising the means of production, distribution and exchange, in other words to turning this country into a socialist state. This at a time when most countries (with the exception of Castro's Cuba) are turning their backs on socialism.

If in fact the present leaders of the Labour party have finally jettisoned socialism, along with so much else that was once dear to them, might it not be better for them to say so and adjust their constitution accordingly? At least the electors would then know where they stood.

Yours faithfully,

FITZROY MACLEAN,

Strachur House,

Strachur, Argyll.

April 1.

Attacks on Kinnock

From Mrs M. G. Pattison



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 4: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from a visit to France. Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN, was in attendance.

The Duke of York today presented Colours to the 2nd/11th Battalion, the 7th/10th Battalion, and the 8th Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment, at Redford Cavalry Barracks, Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Lord Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Susan Baird), the Rt Hon The Lord Provost.

The Lady Glencorner was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 4: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, London College of Music, was present this evening at a Concert at St Barnabas Church, Pittshanger Lane, and later attended a Reception at the Polytechnic of West London, Warwick Road, Ealing, London W5.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

April 5: The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Army Educational Corps, this morning attended a Service of Commemoration and Rededication in the Great Hall, Eltham Palace, London SE9.

In the afternoon Her Royal Highness attended a Beating of Retreat and met members of the Corps at the Royal Army Education Centre, Beaconsfield.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 4: The Prince of Wales today attended the Enthronement of the Right Reverend Peter Ball as Bishop of Gloucester in Gloucester Cathedral.

Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser, RN, was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 5: The Princess Margaret,

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Jean Baptiste Rousseau, poet, Paris, 1671; Maximilien de Robespierre, French revolution leader, Arras, 1758; Alexander Herzen, writer and socialist, Moscow, 1812.

DEATHS: Raphael, painter, Rome, 1520; Albrecht Dürer, painter and engraver, Nuremberg, 1528; Sir Francis Walsingham, statesman, London, 1590; John Stow, antiquary, London, 1605; Giovanni Pascoli, poet, Bologna, 1912; Edwin Arlington Robinson, poet, New York, 1935; Julian Borden, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate, 1919, Brussels, 1961; Igor Stravinsky, composer, New York, 1971.

The revival of the Olympic Games at Athens, 1906; Robert Peary arrived at the North Pole, 1909. The United States declared war on Germany, 1917.

Nature notes

THE first chiffchaffs are back from the Mediterranean, but they are coming in more slowly than usual because of the cold winds. In passage, they sing in parks and gardens, but most of them settle down to breed in high woods with an undergrowth of brambles.

A few hoopoes have arrived from Africa: they are exotic pink birds, barred black and white above, with a crest they can open like a fan. In farmland, little owls are mating, and their noisy whistles ring out across the fields. Siting on a fence-post, they seem to frown with their white eyebrows.

Leaves and buds have also been slow to open further, but a green shimmer is creeping across the hawthorns, and the round elm buds in the hedges are turning into tiny leaf. One

of the smallest English flowers, whitlow grass, is out in stony places: it has four minuscule white petals, all cleft in two, and its brown stem is about an inch and a half tall.

The bright pink, four-petaled flowers of honesty can be found here and there on bare woodland floors: the species was brought here from southern Europe 500 years ago, and has often naturalised itself.

DJM

Births

CASEMENT - On March 30th, in Rachel Lee Berry and William Case's home, London NW3, at 11pm, a girl, Sophie, a daughter of Roger and Sophie Case.

de STACPOOL - On April 1st, 1992, at 11.05am, a boy, Robert, beloved mother of Jonathan, Abigail and Stephen, and son of Sophie and Edward de Stacpool. Cremation private.

FREY - On April 1st, 1992, at 11.30am, a son, Peter, Arthur Frank Maurice, a brother of Louise and James.

HOBBS - On March 30th, to Wendy Lee Corrigan and Christopher Hobbs, a son, Christopher, Elizabeth Anne.

HUSBAND - On March 30th, to Peter, wife of Steven, a son, Daniel, a daughter, Kinsara.

MURKIN - On March 29th, to Sarah Lee King and Duncan, a son, Matthew George Francis.

MORRIS - On April 1st, 1992, at 11.30am, at her home, 34 Old Lane, a brother, Pipa and Annabel.

NEVES - On March 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Holleyman and David, a son, Julian, a daughter, Lucia, a sister for Michael and Karen.

ROBINSON - On Tuesday March 31st, at the Warlingham Spa to Claire Lee Williams and David, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for Michael and Karen.

Deaths

SUGDEN - On Saturday April 4th, peacefully in hospital, at Sunbridge Park Hospital, Kent, Margaret, Dr John Sugden, formerly of Bruce Drive and Carsons Rd, Canterbury, died yesterday at a very much loved father, father in law and grand father. Funeral service in Canterbury Cathedral, Wednesday 8th April at 1.30 pm interment thereafter in Pantheon Church Yard to which all friends are respectfully invited.

MCCLURE WILLIAMS - On April 4th, peacefully at home, aged 80 years, Mrs Olive McClure Williams, widow of the Prince Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, at Pulney Vale Cemetery, 3000 Thursday 9th April.

LINDSEY - On April 3rd, peacefully in hospital, after a long illness, with courage, Maurice Henry, aged 69 years, formerly of 102a, 2nd floor, 2nd Avenue, April 8th 1992, followed by cremation at Pulney Vale Cemetery, 3000 Thursday 9th April.

TIERNEY - On April 3rd, peacefully at home, aged 80 years, Mrs Olive Tierney, widow of Kevin Tierney, formerly of 238a High Street, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1EN. Enquiries 081 650 0304.

McLURE WILLIAMS - On April 4th, peacefully at home, aged 80 years, Mrs Dorothy Williams, widow of Richard and much loved mother of Sarah, Bridget and Tessa, and grandmother. Cremation private. A service of Thanksgiving will be held at St. Mary's Church, Canterbury, on Wednesday 22nd of April at 2.30pm.



The Duke of Edinburgh, wearing the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, inspecting veterans who returned to St Nazaire, France, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the daring commando raid

Michael Bourdeaux

Churches struggle in Ukraine

The churches in Ukraine are rejoicing in the new independence from Moscow. The emergence of this huge country - with 52 million people considerably larger than Poland both in area and population - will change the balance of European politics as well as of religion.

The history is complex. Kievans of the Middle Ages accepted Orthodox Christianity in 988, but later fell to Tatar invasions from the East, which pushed the civilisation north to Muscovy, where it became Russian. Ukrainian culture as such was driven west to Galicia and eventually came under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Thus in 1988 Ukrainians resented Moscow's presentation of the millennium of Christianity as primarily a Russian event, centred upon Moscow.

Only the eastern Ukraine was in the USSR in the 1930s, when Stalin tried to break its resistance through the purges and deliberate famine. Some remnant of Christian identity remained, despite the pressures of atheism and conformity.

The second world war brought a dramatic change. The Germans allowed the re-opening of churches in areas they overran, so the Soviets later justified renewed persecution under the charge that the church had collaborated with the Nazis.

The victorious Red Army pushed the western frontier of the USSR far into Poland and Czechoslovakia thus bringing the whole of Ukraine under one political system and incorporating millions of nationalists in Galicia, the heartland of the Uniate (Greek-Catholic) Church.

In 1946 Stalin abolished this Church at the Synod of Lviv, the legality of which was never accepted by Rome or the Ukrainian diaspora abroad. In a strange sequence of events, this assault would set in train the reversal of Soviet dominance over Ukraine 45 years later. Ukrainian national sentiment was driven underground and the Russian Orthodox took over the churches. For decades Soviet propaganda claimed the Greek Catholic

lids had destroyed themselves, but finally on June 10, 1991 Patriarch Alexi II of Moscow admitted in *Izvestia* that these events had occurred "under strong pressure from the Stalinist administration".

Christians were in the forefront of the re-emergence of free opinion in Ukraine in the 1960s. Nikita Khrushchev renewed violent religious persecution in 1959, as a result of which there was a sustained campaign to close the great monastery, the Pochayev Lavra. On July 25, 1964, Yefrosin Shchur wrote to U Thant, then Secretary-General of the United Nations, saying that her son was a monk at the monastery, but the authorities refused him residence rights and imprisoned him. "For communists," she commented, "white will always be black and vice-versa."

This initiative alerted world opinion and this kept the monastery open. It was such defiance which would eventually lead to Ukrainian independence.

At the same time as the Pochayev events, the small Baptist community made Kiev the USSR-wide focus of an extraordinary campaign to break Soviet control over their life. Pastor Georgi Vins challenged the Soviet authorities to concede the freedom of worship guaranteed under the constitution, but this cost him prison sentences of three and then ten years. However, his followers alerted millions of people round the world to Soviet injustice. Public opinion was further enraged when Brezhnev expelled Vins to the USA as part of an exchange for Soviet spies held in America. Five Christians are now two spy's said Vins at the time.

The 1970s saw the re-emergence of Ukrainian nationalism, partly fuelled by the success Christians had had in resisting persecution in the previous decade. Most of the activists were themselves Christian. They quoted the new Helsinki Accords of 1975 in their defence, but this did not save them from heavy sentences in the courts.

This nationalist movement dovetailed into the rebirth of the Greek-Catholic Church. Far from having been annihilated

by Soviet forces, it had survived.

On December 1, 1989 Mr Mikhail Gorbachev brought the gift of a legalised Greek-Catholic Church to the Pope in Rome. The Moscow Patriarchate has bitterly resented the re-emergence of the Ukrainian Catholics, claiming that they have been dispossessing the Orthodox, the rightful owners of the church buildings. Perhaps, now that Ukraine is independent, it may be possible for the two sides to resolve their differences in a less fraught atmosphere. However, a complicating factor is that the Orthodox Church itself is divided in Ukraine. The Moscow Patriarchate is under criticism from some Orthodox believers who want to break away from its dominating influence.

Canon Michael Bourdeaux is director of Keston Research, Oxford.

laid by the events of 1946, it now had a cover following of perhaps five million, many attending worship in the churches that were now officially Russian Orthodox, some meeting in secret.

It was the lay who presented the public face of the campaign for re-legislation, men such as Vasyl Kobyn.

He proclaimed his allegiance to the Ukrainian Catholic Church at a time when it did not officially exist, for which he suffered long imprisonment. In 1987 Ivan Hel, another layman, who had himself spent 17 years in the gulag, took over the leadership.

Ivan Hel was a group of secretly ordained bishops who eventually identified themselves. They began celebrating the liturgy in the open air, often outside the churches they claimed back. The continued existence of an underground church was manifestly incompatible with perestroika and these vast crowds were the same people who would soon be spearheading the movement for Ukrainian independence (Rukh).

In a remarkably short time they persuaded the more sovietised population in the eastern Ukraine that continued allegiance to Moscow was neither politically nor economically beneficial for a vast republic which contained so many of its own resources.

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forthcoming
marriages

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 6 1992

OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR RICHARD SMEETON

Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Michael Smeeton, KCB, MBE, a former flag officer naval air command and later chief executive of the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC), died on March 29 aged 79. He was born on September 24, 1912.

DICK Smeeton was a pioneer of the Fleet Air Arm. He fought with it in the second world war against Hitler's Reich, then for it in post-war battles in Whitehall. He took early retirement in 1965, not before launching a metaphorical torpedo or two against his masters in the argument over the future of aircraft carriers. But he lived to see his position vindicated with the commissioning of HMS *Invincible* 15 years later and her subsequent central role in the Falklands war.

Smeeton always counted himself fortunate to have lived to see the end of the second world war. A young pilot in the carrier *Glorious* in 1940, he was transferred away with his squadron of Gladiators just before she was sunk by the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* off Norway. Her loss was particularly poignant for Dick Smeeton, whose squadron was detached to help search for survivors. Those sadly did not include

C-in-C in the Pacific, he became air plans officer in the British Pacific fleet for the final 12 months of the war. Without the aircraft which he had had the foresight to commission, British air plans would have been seriously curtailed.

Smeeton, far from having a naval background, was born at Halifax into a family of mill owners. He went to Dartmouth at the age of 13, won his pilot's wings in 1935 and served in the carriers *Courageous* and *Eagle* before the war. He served as commander [air] in the carrier *Theseus* on a voyage to Australia and New Zealand in the late 1940s and, after a spell as a deputy director of air warfare at the Admiralty (his first senior appointment in Whitehall), became captain [air] in the Mediterranean, based in Malta, between 1952 and 1954.

He captained HMS *Albion* at St. Nazaire where it joined other carriers in attacking Egyptian shore targets prior to launching a helicopter assault by British commandos. That *Albion* got to the theatre in time, following a major refit at Portsmouth, was largely due to Smeeton's determination.

There followed a progression of increasingly senior staff appointments and commands. He was director of plans at the Admiralty, 1958-9, flag officer aircraft carriers, 1960-2. Naval deputy supreme allied commander Atlantic, 1962-4, and finally flag officer naval air command, the Fleet Air Arm's top job, between 1964 and 1965, when he retired.

With the first world war and the collapse of the Habsburgs, the family moved to Vienna, where the young Erika mostly grew up, though she learnt how to play cards as a young girl when staying with an uncle in Amsterdam. Four days before her 19th birthday she was married to Salomon Markus, whose family were in the shoe business and who became a millionaire property-owner in Vienna after the second world war. This marriage was the only mistake to which Rudi Markus would ever admit.

Adolf Hitler's activities made life in-

convenient for Viennese coffee-house bridge players, especially Jewish ones, and in 1938 Markus escaped to England with his young daughter Margo, though not without once being deported, straight back from Dover to Ostend. She persevered on that occasion — determination was not a quality she was ever short of — and made the rest of her life in England. She was always fiercely proud of her adopted country, and it is possible that nothing gave her greater pleasure than being appointed MBE in 1975 for services to bridge.

These services entailed a tireless effort to promote the game. She became *The Guardian's* bridge correspondent in 1955 and set up the newspaper's Easter tournament. She organised many bridge events for charity, and thought up the idea of the Lords v Commons match. This was partly because of her long-standing connection with Lord Lever for

RIXI MARKUS

Rixi Markus, MBE, who fled to Britain from Hitler and became a leading international bridge player, died on April 4 aged 81. She was born on June 27, 1910.

WITH the death of Rixi Markus, one of the last links with the origins of contract bridge has been severed. She was a member of the Austrian team which won the first two European Women's Championships (in 1935 and 1936) and the first Women's World Championship (1937). Hers was the only team in the history of bridge which was never defeated.

Her personal record is unlikely ever to be equalled. She won 12 international championships (more than any other woman) and was the first woman to become an international grand master.

Only Helen Sobell, who played with Ely Culbertson and became the legendary Charles Goren's partner, can challenge her as the strongest woman player to date. Her partnership with Fritz Gordon, who died on February 8, was famous and stormy. They won the world women's pairs in 1962 and, by a record margin, in 1974. Their supremacy was also marked by winning the world mixed teams event in 1962 and the Women's World Team Olympiad in 1964 — the only two bridge olympiad events Britain has ever won.

In speed of analysis Markus was in a class of her own. Problems about which good, or even very good, players agonised for several minutes would be solved by Markus in an intimidatingly small number of seconds. She did not apply her formidable mental powers to the minute dissection of bridge *arithmetic*, but she did write several books, of which *Big Boldly, Play Safe and Common Sense Bridge* rank with the best.

Markus was born Erika Schatzstein in Gura Humora, a small town of the Austro-Hungarian empire which is now in Romania. Her family was Jewish, clever, iron-willed and prosperous. By the time he was 20 years old her father owned forests, sawmills, a small brewery, vineyards in Hungary, and much else.

With the first world war and the collapse of the Habsburgs, the family moved to Vienna, where the young Erika mostly grew up, though she learnt how to play cards as a young girl when staying with an uncle in Amsterdam. Four days before her 19th birthday she was married to Salomon Markus, whose family were in the shoe business and who became a millionaire property-owner in Vienna after the second world war. This marriage was the only mistake to which Rudi Markus would ever admit.

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Rixi Markus with her trophies in 1963 after her first olympiad success

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Manchester, best known as millionaire lawyer and Labour cabinet minister but also a bridge player of international class. Her bridge columns, which poured out from her elegant flat in Knightsbridge, appeared all over the world.

She always turned up for the summer festival in Deauville and always went to St Moritz for the month of January. She broke a leg sailing there in her seventies, and an arm shortly before her eightieth birthday, but the doughty spirit of the Scharzhorn kept her travelling the world and arguing the toss till her last days.

Her only child Margo — who lived an equally glamorous helter-skelter, doughty life in New York and Hollywood — died of cancer in 1976, aged 46, and Rudi never remarried, despite many romances. Her last book, *A Vulnerable Game* (1938), contains the story of a twentieth-century life, and a minor classic of its kind.

ALUN WILLIAMS

David Alun Williams, broadcaster, died suddenly on a working holiday aboard a cruise ship in the Mediterranean on March 30 aged 71. He was born in Port Talbot on August 26, 1920.

ALUN Williams was one of a generation of broadcasters whose talents were nurtured and developed in the age of the "wireless", but whose contribution far exceeded the limitations of the medium at that time.

He will be remembered best for that eloquence as a commentator which sprang from his deep Welsh Nonconformist religious roots. His description of the memorial service in the Munich Olympic Stadium in 1972 after the massacre of the Jewish athletes was called at the time "one of the greatest pieces of off-the-cuff broadcasting in history". It was a combination of all the intellectual, educational, emotional and religious reserves which belonged to someone who throughout his life was proud to have been "the son of a Welsh manse".

Williams was educated at Llanelli and Pontypridd grammar schools, and at the University College of Wales, Cardiff. He served in the Royal Navy during the second world war and obtained a commission in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

His interest in broadcasting began while he was a university student when he would occasionally take part in the early pioneering programmes of the BBC's Welsh region as actor, singer, and pianist. Later, during the war, he presented and produced his own programmes on Radio Colombo, Ceylon.

He joined the BBC in 1946 and from then until a few days before his death became and remained one of Wales's best known voices. Through his work for the BBC he also became one of Wales's finest ambassadors abroad. As a sports commentator his coverage of swimming and association football took him all over Europe; as one of the team of commentators at innumerable Olympic and Commonwealth Games, as well as through his rugby commentaries with the British Lions and Welsh rugby team, he travelled all over the world. Wherever he went he linked up with Welsh exiles and recorded them for his BBC Wales radio series. Little wonder that when the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales invited him as an honorary member of the Gorsedd of Bards in 1970 he took the bardic name of "Cwrydlyn" (Wanderer).

Williams was one of the BBC's principal radio commentators at the Coronation and subsequently at a number of royal weddings and at the investiture of the Prince of

Wales at Caernarfon Castle. He brought to every occasion a unique blend of solemnity, vivid description, wit, and occasionally bubbling joy.

He was first and foremost a commentator, but this by no means confined or constrained his talents. Over the years he presented and produced countless programmes in both Welsh and English for the BBC's radio and television services, and when Radio Wales and Radio Cymru were launched on separate channels he, on the verge of retirement from the BBC, associated himself with the new challenge, and gave both services the benefit of a readily identifiable popular voice.

On a broader front he will be remembered as one of the presenters of *Welsh Rarebit*, as the quizmaster in *Sporting Chance*, and for his regular appearances as a presenter of *Come Dancing*. In everything he did he was the epitome of determined professionalism. He formally retired from the BBC in 1982, but continued to be a regular contributor until a few days before his death.

Williams was more than a broadcaster. He was an entertainer. His extrovert, jovial personality, together with his talents as a musician, gave him a distinct public advantage over those whose traits as communicators are confined to a script and a studio. He was in his element as an after-dinner speaker, and his lasting delight was to enter



tain energetically at the piano. He died, on board ship, surrounded by a group of enthusiastic Welsh people, doing just that. He was appointed OBE in 1982 "for services to broadcasting and entertainment."

This bilingual Welshman, who neither sought nor found linguistic barriers during his long career in broadcasting, was a talented and dedicated professional who was committed to Wales and its people, and to public service broadcasting and its commitment to serving people. He chose not to work for anyone other than the BBC.

He leaves a widow, Perrie, and three children.

PROF MANOLIS ANDRONIKOS

Professor Manolis Andronikos, Greek archaeologist and scholar, died in Salonicca on March 30 aged 72. He was born on October 23, 1919.

THE spectacular discovery by Manolis Andronikos of the treasure-filled Macedonian royal tomb at Vergina in 1977, as well as the grave-stones of Macedonian commoners, produced substantial evidence that ancient Macedonia had been populated by Greek tribes since at least the fourth century BC. The Greek government is now wielding this historical argument to deny neighbouring Slavs the disintegrating Yugoslav federation (whose ancestors settled in the Balkans after AD 600), the right to use the name "Macedonia" for their sovereign state in a fully international event.

Manolis Andronikos served as secretary of the Defence Industries Council between 1970 and 1979 and as a council member of the Institute of Directors. He was made a deputy lieutenant of Surrey in 1976.

A well-built man, over 6ft tall, Smeeton could be an outspoken, formidable colleague. But he had an enviable reputation for straightforwardness and honesty. He converted to Roman Catholicism nine years ago.

He is survived by his half-Spanish wife Maria Elizabeth ("Betty") whom he met in Hong Kong while serving as a young officer in HMS *Eagle* before the war. They celebrated their golden wedding two years ago.

Born in Bursa, Turkey, Andronikos was aged three when his family was forced to flee to Salonicca following the defeat of the Greek army in Asia Minor. Later he studied classical archaeology in the University of Salonicca and it was as a student in the late 1930s that he first took part in excavations conducted by his teachers in Vergina, a small village 50 miles south-west of Salonicca.

He graduated in 1940, the year Greece joined the war. After his country was occupied by the Axis forces, he served briefly as a schoolteacher in Thrace, before escaping to the Middle East to join the Free Greek Forces. At the end of the war he resumed



Professor Andronikos and the ivory head of Philip II which he unearthed at Vergina

teaching. However, after obtaining his doctorate in Salonicca in 1952 with a treatise on Plato and the Arts, he pursued further studies on a British Council scholarship in Oxford under John Beazley, Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art, who became his mentor.

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Ombudsman accuses top consultants of not caring

BY TONY DAWE

STRONG criticism of hospital consultants for indifference to patients' feelings has come from William Reid, the health service ombudsman.

He accused consultants of adopting "wholly inappropriate attitudes" and of showing lack of concern about complaining made against them.

He said that better communication between all National Health Service staff and patients was the key to reducing the number of complaints he received. In the year ending on March 31, there were 1,170, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year, which itself set a record.

Among the cases Mr Reid has considered in the past year are complaints against nurses, ambulance and administrators. His greatest concern, however, is over the behaviour of consultants, the majority of whom earn an average £40,000 a year in

private practice in addition to their NHS salaries of up to £40,000. "I still find that the old-fashioned consultant cares not one jot for the feelings of the patient," Mr Reid said. "He is completely self-centred and regards any complaint as a distraction."

Last year he criticised an obstetrician for "discourteous and appalling behaviour". The consultant's health authority called him to two meetings with the parents of a newborn baby who had died. The mother complained that she was told by the hospital to stay at home for several hours even though her contractions were increasing. She also complained that the consultant had been unprepared for the first meeting and had left the second without explanation.

The ombudsman upheld the complaint about the hospital's admission arrangements and added in his report: "I was appalled by the apparent lack of preparation by the consultant... I was in no doubt that the manner of the consultant's departure from the second meeting was discourteous and perceived as abrupt."

In another case, a surgeon refused to allow an elderly patient to bring a friend, a member of a community health council, to an important consultation. The patient was anxious about surgical treatment he had received and the main purpose of the meeting was to allay his fears. The ombudsman found that the consultant's attitude was unreasonable and at odds with health department's consensus approach.

The Labour leader, in another sign of his apparent willingness to move gradually on electoral reform, gave a clear signal that he was prepared to envisage the introduction of proportional representation for the next election to the European Parliament in 1994.

In reviewing the cases Mr Reid, who is also the parliamentary ombudsman, said: "It is depressing that some grievances and issues crop up again and again."

John Chawner, chairman of the British Medical Association's consultants' committee, was surprised at the tenor of the ombudsman's remarks but agreed a problem did exist. "It is a matter of concern if doctors do communicate badly and it is something which we have noted from time to time," he said.

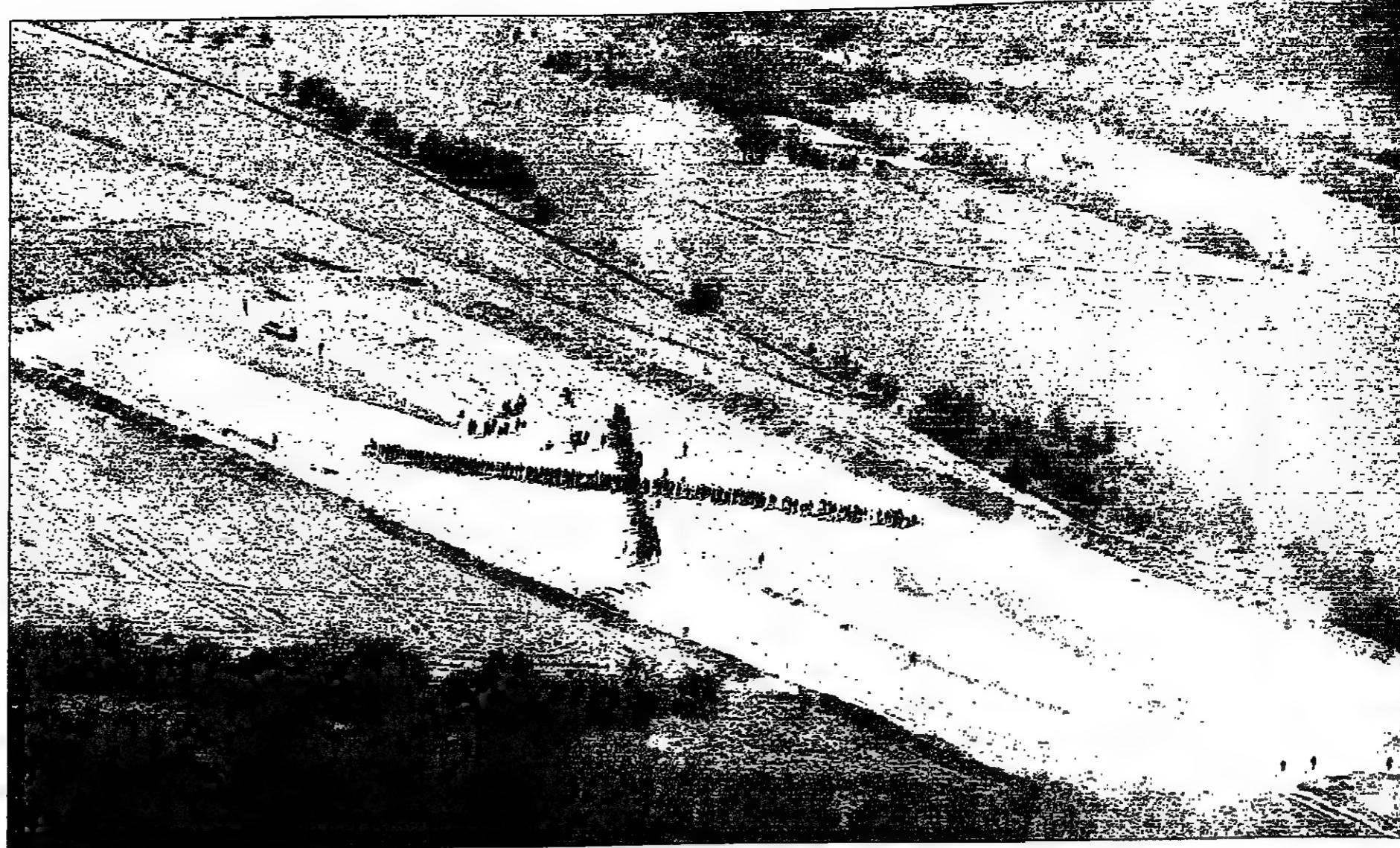
The ombudsman's report for 1991-2 will be published in July.

Iranians bomb Iraq

Continued from page 1 appeared to end the phoney alliance engineered by President Saddam Hussein after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The Iraqi leader offered border concessions to Tehran and the return of Iranian prisoners of war to ensure that Iran did not join the coalition against him. Since the war, Iran has refused to return dozens of fighter planes which Iraqi pilots flew there to save them from American bombers.

The mujahedin rebels said one of their men was killed by shrapnel and 12 others wounded in the Iranian raid. They showed foreign correspondents the wreckage of a plane bearing red, white and green Iranian markings.

In recent weeks, the mujahedin, committed to overthrowing the Tehran regime, have stepped up a virulent propaganda campaign and incited unrest in Iran ahead of the parliamentary elections. Gulf-based diplomats said the Iranian raid was a warning to the rebels that they could no longer operate with impunity inside a severely weakened Iraq.



Underground movement: protesters form a cross on excavations for the final section of the M3 on Twyford Down yesterday. They are hoping to force the government into building a tunnel under the Hampshire beauty spot (Michael Dynes writes). The exposed chalk marks the start of a cutting, 400ft wide and 100ft deep, designed to carry the motorway around the shoulder of the down. The demonstration was staged by the Twyford

shire beauty spot (Michael Dynes writes). The exposed chalk marks the start of a cutting, 400ft wide and 100ft deep, designed to carry the motorway around the shoulder of the down. The demonstration was staged by the Twyford

Association to draw attention to a voting campaign in which disaffected local Tories are being urged to vote for Labour and Liberal Democratic candidates who oppose building the motorway over the down. Christo-

pher Chope, the roads minister, is one candidate threatened. Robin Maynard, the environmental campaigner for Friends of the Earth said that the effect of the preliminary works on the environment was superficial: "The dam-

age will not be irreparable until the contractors start work on the cutting. The protest must continue because until that work starts later this year there is still hope." The transport department insists a tunnel would increase costs.

Major's sword of socialism plea

Continued from page 1

to get them implemented is to vote for Labour government.

Mr Kinnock will lead calls to voters to give Britain a strong Labour government rather than a hung parliament, so that the policies they favour will be put into effect.

The campaign now will concentrate on the recession and health, stressing Labour's consensus approach.

The Labour leader, in another sign of his apparent willingness to move gradually on electoral reform, gave a clear signal that he was prepared to envisage the introduction of proportional representation for the next election to the European Parliament in 1994.

He gave his clearest pledge yet on income tax rates, promising no increases after a first budget. He said categorically that under Labour "there will be no rises in the rates of tax of 25, 40 and 50 per cent plus 9 per cent national insurance". In an inter-

view on BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Kinnock said there would be no "triumphant" approach in government.

There was no virtue in a combinatorial attitude. The so-called "firm government" approach of the past 13 years had proved to be fragile and in many ways incompetent.

Mr Ashdown conceded that he was risking divisions in his own party by standing by his refusal to prop up a minority Labour or Tory government unless he received a commitment to legislation on PR. He admitted there might be "difficulties and tensions" within the party in a hung parliament.

As the polls continue to chart a rise in the Liberal Democrat standing, Mr Ashdown told party workers last night that it had achieved the prospect of a "significant parliamentary force" after the election.

It could, he said, act as a bridgehead for a greater ad-

vance to a Liberal Democratic government within the decade.

Norman Lamont entered the fray after Mr Kinnock's statement in his interview that promises in Labour's manifesto would be implemented only if resources allowed, saying that "honest qualification" was built in on "about every occasion".

Mr Lamont last night wrote to Mr Kinnock saying that he had counted 32 pledges which were not accompanied by any such qualification.

The Conservatives plan to redouble their attacks this week on Labour's tax and spending plans despite the fact that only 13 per cent of the electorate say that taxation will help to decide their votes.

Mr Major said earlier on TV that Mrs Thatcher had "taken a hatchet to the underworld" clogging the economy and cleared a pathway to prosperity. "I am going to turn that pathway into a four-lane motorway," Mr Major said: "This is not a by-election; it is a general election and people had better not sleepwalk on Thursday. The government in power on Friday is going to be there for five years and people are increasingly realising that."

In an *On the Record* interview yesterday Mr Ashdown said that either Labour or the Conservatives sought to govern as a minority they would be putting their parties before the country. Economic recovery required a stable government for four years, not another election in a matter of months.

The problems with the economy would ensure, he said, that if any party sought to go it alone as a minority there would be pressure on the pound which could lead to a rise in interest rates. If it did, that would be "the direct price of minority government".

Brokers prepare for an all-night sitting

BY MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THREE City's big securities houses are hoping to make a handsome profit from Thursday's election battle, whatever the outcome.

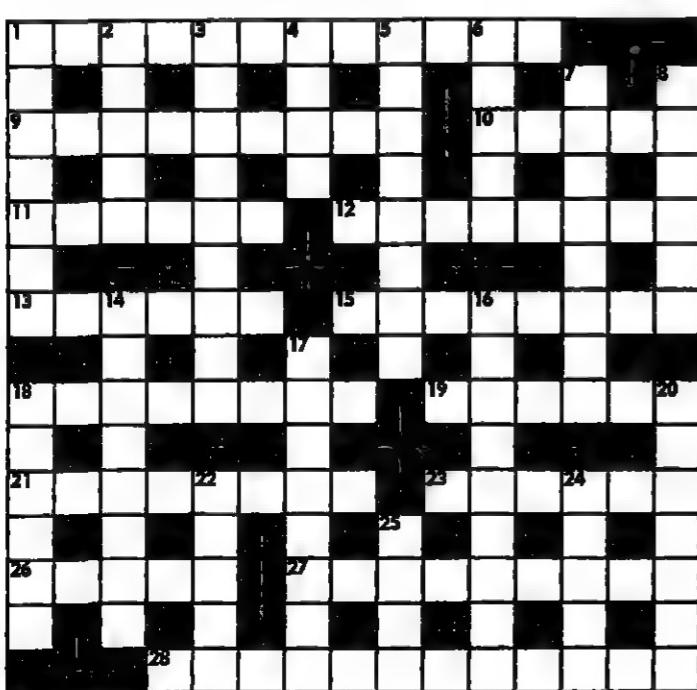
Teams of traders will continue dealing throughout the night as the results become known. Brokers in London will be taking advantage of the time differences of the world's major financial centres. Trading in New York will continue until around 10pm London time, with heavy turnover expected among the big British companies; many of whose shares trade in America in a package form. Dealing in Tokyo is expected to begin around 2am London time and continue through until 7am.

The London Stock Exchange has made arrangements to start dealing on Friday half-an-hour earlier than normal. Its computer trading system, Seq, will be open for update at 7am and the mandatory quote period will begin at 8am. Instead of the usual 8.30am start.

BZW, London's biggest securities and investment banking house and a subsidiary of Barclays Bank, has lined up a team of bond dealers and will trade until the close of business on Wall Street. Its economics team under the lead of Michael Hughes will also be on hand to analyse to election result and its likely impact.

Midland Montagu, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, will be manning the telephones throughout the night making prices in government securities. Smith New Court, one of London's two publicly quoted securities houses, will also be providing a team of equity market traders, as will rival Kleinwort Benson.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,885



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard
CLASSICS

MACHAO
a. The God of Battle
b. An early doctor
c. A river of Thrace
PALLADAS
a. A series of Pallian Athene
b. Writer of epigrams
c. A Roman Empress
BALIS
a. An inspired prophet
b. A Thessalian pyramide
c. A lover of Aphrodite
COLUMELLA
a. An arceded stoa
b. Ancient Roman Cicerone
c. An agricultural writer

Answers on page 18

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London & SE
C London (within N & S Circ)
M25/M23/M26/M27
M25/M23/M26/M27
M25/M23/M24/M4
M25 London Orbital only
National
National motorways
West Country
West Midlands
East Anglia
North-West England
Northern England
Scotland
Northern Island
London
Answers Saturday's figures are latest available

ACROSS

- 27 The salesman scoffed about swindle, the scoundrel! (9).
- 28 "Hall please" — an odd order to give a goddess (6,6).
- 1 To many a loss-up — take a chance on it (7).
- 2 Bush senior (5).
- 3 This country calls for more drastic penalties (9).
- 4 The writer left a medico to follow (4).
- 5 Cheap honest? Explain that! (8).
- 6 The measure of a top man (5).
- 7 It's all recklessly put on a horse (8).
- 8 The experienced sailor goes aloft without publicity (3-3).
- 14 Separated and placed under cover (8).
- 16 Bring delight (9).
- 17 Neat girl's make-up unimpaired (8).
- 18 Second firm to employ a man from Merseyside (6).
- 20 Take off from an official about 5! (7).
- 22 Mouth a letter (5).
- 24 A maxim for modern times (5).
- 25 Copies in the cheapest of materials (4).
- 26 Incurred a financial liability exaggerated in the reporting (8).
- 27 Abuse dope and feel awful (6).
- 28 A magic formula to gain time (5).

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,884 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

- 27 The salesman scoffed about swindle, the scoundrel! (9).
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Crossword is on page 9 of the Life & Times section

CLUE: A couple of mothers vote for the cleanest form of water heating (9).

By the appropriate code,

Answers Saturday's figures are latest available

AA'S 24-HOUR HOTLINE

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• BUSINESS NEWS 21-24
 • SPORT 25-30
 • RACING 25

THE TIMES BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 6 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MAN OF THE WEEK

Testing time for Tories on terrace

As part of the French political reshuffle that saw Pierre Bérégovoy replace Edith Cresson as prime minister, Bernard Tapie, the millionaire owner of Marseilles football club, became minister for urban affairs.

Mr Tapie's appointment may have been quietly noted by Ken Bates, the millionaire owner of Chelsea football club. For Mr Bates sits in the grandstands of power these days. David Mellor, the home office minister, is a regular visitor to Stamford Bridge, as is, when affairs of state allow, John Major, a lifelong Blues fan. A word in the right ear and who knows?

But all that could change on Thursday when Messrs Major and Mellor face the voters and Mr Bates and Chelsea have to produce £25 million or face eviction from Stamford Bridge at the end of the season. For Tory-voting Chelsea fans it will be an anxious 24 hours.

Mr Bates's deadline was set by the Court of Appeal. It chose the tenth anniversary of his buying the then debt-laden club for £1 to give Chelsea seven days to



Bates: pugnacious

pay up or prepare to get out. It looked like a knockout win for Cabra, the owner of Stamford Bridge through its takeover of Marles Estates, the property company that bought the ground in 1983 for £1.25 million.

Those that know say Mr Bates, aged 60 and with a career of trucking and offshore development behind him, will not be reaching for a chequebook on Thursday. But that does not mean to say he is giving up. Persistence is his middle name; it comes between - controversial and pugnacious.

Even though John Duggan, the Cabra chairman, is away on holiday, there are reports that a compromise deal could yet be hammered out, its path smoothed by the recent emergence of a Bates-backed company as Cabra's biggest shareholder. If he can secure Stamford Bridge, Mr Bates will win the gratitude of Chelsea's army of fans - with or without a prime minister.

MATTHEW BOND

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7420 (+0.0040)
 German mark
2.8386 (-0.0195)
 Exchange index
90.0 (-0.2)
 Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1851.4 (-63.5)
 FT-SE 100
2382.7 (-65.2)
 New York Dow Jones
3249.11 (+17.87)
 Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18559.71 (-107.28)

1X

Housing threat to Labour's growth hopes

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE London housing market could be seriously hit by Labour's tax and national insurance plans.

Previously unpublished official figures show that the market depends heavily on high earners taking out heavy mortgages, which could be most affected by tax increases. The degree to which this affects the economy of the region could be critical to the success of Labour's economic measures.

Independent forecasts released today suggest the economy would grow slightly faster in the first two years of a Labour government than under the Conservatives, unless confidence were undermined. One suggests that a hung parliament would produce a faster recovery than either a Labour or Conservative victory, even before taking account of Paddy Ashdown's pledge to veto Labour's top rate tax.

The forecasters, from the London Business School and the Independent Economic Modelling Group (Item), show Labour's spending plans adding between 0.1 and 0.3 of a percentage point to economic growth in 1992 and 1993. The Item group, which uses the Treasury's economic model, also carried out a separate analysis for a hung parliament. This suggested growth 0.3 of a percentage point higher under a Labour

Liberal Democrat coalition than under the Conservatives.

Economists at both Item and LBS made it clear, however, that model-based economic forecasts could be undermined by any unexpected fall in confidence resulting either from financial market uncertainties about a Labour government or the impact of higher taxes on consumer confidence and house prices.

The dangers for the housing market in London and the South-East are underlined by the environment department's sample survey of new mortgages completed in the last quarter of last year. These normally unpublished figures reveal the London market's heavy dependence on large mortgages, expensive houses and upper income borrowers.

Loans for more than £60,000 accounted for 45.9 per cent of new mortgages in London, compared with a national average of 21.3 per cent, according to the survey. Almost 11 per cent of new mortgages in London were for more than £100,000 against a national average of 4 per cent. Almost 46 per cent of London borrowers had incomes of more than £25,000 compared with 21 per cent nationally, and 15 per cent of London borrowers had incomes in excess of £40,000.

Most City analysts predict that a Labour or coalition government would have to

pay an interest rate risk premium to persuade international investors to hold sterling at its present exchange rate.

The LBS and Item economic models suggest, however, that the consequent reduction in consumer spending, investment and private housing activity would be more than offset, at least in the first two years, by the higher public spending promised by Labour or the Liberal Democrats.

The LBS forecast pointed

to growth of 1.2 per cent and 2.5 per cent in 1992 and 1993 under Conservative policies, against 1.5 per cent and 2.8 per cent under Labour. By 1995, however, growth would be slightly lower under Labour because of higher inflation, which would average 4.1 per cent over the next five years under Labour compared with 3.7 per cent under the Conservatives.

The Item forecast shows

growth of 0.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent in 1992 and 1993 under Conservative policies, rising to 0.5 per cent and 1.9 per cent under Labour and 0.7 per cent and 2.0 per cent in a hung parliament.

The forecasters, from the London Business School and the Independent Economic Modelling Group (Item), show Labour's spending plans adding between 0.1 and 0.3 of a percentage point to economic growth in 1992 and 1993. The Item group, which uses the Treasury's economic model, also carried out a separate analysis for a hung parliament. This suggested growth 0.3 of a percentage point higher under a Labour

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

EDITH CRESSON

PADDY ASHDOWN

IAN MACLAURIN

JOHN MAJOR

DAVID MELLOR

KEN BATES

JOHN TAPIE

ANATOLE KALETSKY

CHRISTOPHER HOGG

ROBERT SPENCER

PAUL GOLDBECK

IAN MACLAURIN

JOHN TAPIE

CHRISTOPHER HOGG

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RO

UN blames ignorance for slump in east Europe

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

A UNITED Nations report has blamed the ignorance of western advisers as well as dogmatic politicians for a slump in east European countries "which appears to be on the scale of the depression of the 1930s".

In its annual *Economic Survey of Europe*, the UN's Economic Commission for Europe said western economists not only failed to comprehend the social and political dynamism that led to the overthrow of the communist regimes, but continued to show ignorance in the subsequent period.

The report said: "The revolutions were quickly followed by western advisers explaining why there was 'no alternative' to doing this or that if the transition to a market economy were to be successful, and by politicians declaring that the transition would be swift and painless."

The conclusion amounted to a thinly veiled attack on the radical reform policies of, among others, Vaclav Klaus, the Czechoslovak finance minister, one of the most radical free-market politician in eastern Europe, and of Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the shock-therapy guru and previously an adviser to the Polish and Russian governments.

The report claimed that the population in eastern Europe received the wrong signals from over-optimistic politicians, which resulted in the creation of false expectations. The slump in eastern Germany output, which led to an "unexpected escalation in the budgetary costs" was cited as a prime example of this misplaced optimism.

The potential implication of this failure could be serious. "Once filled with hope,

the countries in transition have increasingly become an area of disillusion, anxiety and socio-political tensions."

The report claimed: "Many of the people in these countries must now be wondering whether the invisible hand of the market is really an iron fist."

Figures show that industrial output was sharply down all over eastern Europe last year: 27 per cent in Bulgaria, 23 per cent in Czechoslovakia, 14-16 per cent in Hungary and 12 per cent in Poland. The Yugoslav economy virtually collapsed with gross domestic product down 28 per cent and inflation up 184 per cent. The highest annual inflation rate was recorded in Bulgaria, 474 per cent, while Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary all had double-digit inflation rates.

The report did not make any specific forecasts for this year, but said that "economic prospects for east European countries for 1992 remain bleak and uncertain". Poland and Hungary might see a modest upturn in the second half, but there remained the danger that "reform fatigue" could delay the recovery.

The commission's criticism is especially fierce on privatisation. "The speed of privatisation which might satisfy democratic and political objectives could be too fast for avoiding deleterious economic outcomes." Privatisation should only proceed after the monopolies of the former centrally planned economies are broken up.

Market access to western Europe and the establishment of stabilisation funds are cited as vital ingredients for the reform process to succeed.



All this and stamps too: John Roberts outside the Ryman Post Office franchise in High Holborn, London

Post Office betting on lottery trade

COUNTERS, the high street outlets of the Post Office, could add substantially to its profits by taking a leading role in operating the proposed national lottery (Derek Harris writes).

It is estimated the lottery cash flow would be £3 billion a year with administration accounting for about a third.

Whatever the next government's political colour, it is expected to opt for a lottery because the single market would open up Britain to competition from lotteries run in other EC countries.

John Roberts, managing director of Post Office Counters, is to make a strong bid for the lottery business. He

sees it as the icing on what he plans as a much bigger Post Office retailing cake.

As part of a £54 million refurbishment of the UK's 1,100 main post offices, a network of "postshops" is being created. These are shops within shops, selling stationery and greeting cards.

An increasing number of key retailers including supermarkets and high street chains are also operating post offices on their premises in franchising deals.

There are now 27 such franchised post offices around the country and Mr Roberts expects to have 50 within a year.

Ryman, the stationery chain arm of Pentos, has three post offices operating

experimentally, two of them in central London and the other at Southampton. Argyl's Safeway has seven and nine retail Co-ops are also involved with Sainsbury also trying one out at a Savacentre Littlewoods. Thomas Cook and Budgens also have trials.

Mr Roberts believes the new, bigger stores will make the best fit for post offices. Already the high street post office network is Europe's largest retailing business, serving 25 million customers a week through the big main post offices and 19,000 smaller ones. The network's size makes it a natural choice as a lottery operator, he adds.

BAe boosted by more Saudi contracts

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SAUDI Arabia's decision to go ahead with a £1.5 billion extension to its wide-ranging Al Yamamah defence contract is expected to benefit most of Britain's big defence companies and will come as a great relief to British Aerospace, the main contractor.

The £20 billion ten-year contract is funded by the production of 500,000 barrels of

Saudi Arabian oil a day and there is speculation the Saudi Arabian Government may soon increase its daily funding of the contract.

British Aerospace, the British company expected to benefit most from the extra cash injection, said yesterday that it was delighted to hear about the additional funding. "This is a big step forward," said a spokeswoman. The group is now awaiting a decision as to

what the Saudi Arabia's additional requirements will be.

The spokeswoman said there was no timescale for the decision. "We do not put our customers under a time pressure," she said. But analysts expect a Saudi order for 48 Tornado IDS fighter bombers to be top of the list. Other priorities are believed to be 60 Hawk trainer fighters, construction of airbases and minesweepers. BAe shares

have suffered recently on fears that Al Yamamah orders would be delayed and this weekend's news is expected to give them a boost. On Friday they closed down 1p at 299p.

The group's shares have languished since the £430 million rights issue last year which was largely left with the underwriters. At that time Sir Graham Day took over as acting chairman and Professor Sir Roland Smith resigned.

Buyers beware the chicken factor

Each day the chicken awakes to see the sun shining. A hand would reach over the fence to place a plate of corn on the ground for the chicken to eat. It was a comfortable life and the chicken had no reason to think it would not continue forever. Unfortunately, this conclusion was wrong. One day the hand reached over and wrung its neck.

Sterling has certainly been remarkably stable in the run-up to the election, but investors who conclude from this that sterling is safe might end up like the chicken. Just because something has not yet happened does not mean it never will.

The authorities here and in the rest of the European exchange-rate mechanism were not going to allow a sterling crisis before the general election. But afterwards attitudes will change. For example, the Spanish are not likely to be happy if sterling weakness continues to pull down the peseta. I suspect the Conservatives will be ousted on Thursday and this will result in renewed downward pressure on the pound.

The real problem for John Smith, the shadow chancellor, if he arrives at Number 11, is not that the pound will

drop outside its ERM band – the Bank of England has \$44 billion of reserves to support sterling – but that he would need to build credibility rapidly if he is to fund Labour's spending plans.

There have been no gilt issues since the Budget and the authorities slightly underfunded in 1991-2. There

is a real risk that any new gilt issue would meet a "buyers' strike" while there remain doubts about sterling's position within the ERM.

Moreover, in 1993, the PSBR under a Labour government is likely to rise to at least £40 billion. That will mean net gilt issuance will exceed British institutions' cash flow. Thus, Labour would depend on foreign investors if public spending is not to crowd out private investment completely. To convince foreigners to buy gilts, Mr Smith needs to build ERM credibility.

But how does one build credibility? Certainly Mr Smith will be reluctant to push up base rates. Indeed, he would prefer to cut them if Labour is a minority government or has only a small majority. But this will be obvious to the markets. Thus, his stated commitment to the ERM will

not carry any weight because the markets will not believe it will be backed by action. More bullish commentators argue that investors will believe Mr Smith because of the example set by the French socialist government. But they have been willing to raise interest rates to defend the franc.

Adding to Mr Smith's difficulties, the near-term outlook for the economy is dire. Even if Labour succeeded in avoiding a base rate increase, I doubt they would be able to batten the money market yield curve. Three-month money rates are about 11 per cent, well above base rates, and there is a strong possibility that mortgage rates will have to rise.

In addition, while Labour's tax plans are theoretically fiscally neutral, the element of income redistribution (worth about £5 billion) is a dangerous measure in the middle of the recession. Uncertainty, the likelihood of a mortgage rate rise, more weakness in the housing market and the impact of big cuts in the disposable income of high-earners – which will filter down to other parts of the economy – all seem set to delay the recovery at the very least. Even if

GLENN DAVIES

Credit Lyonnais

Wightman works a DIY miracle at Welpac

THE housing market might be moribund and retail demand sluggish but Welpac, a supplier of do-it-yourself products, is managing to buck the trend.

Despite its depressed sector and the potentially damaging impact of a rights issue and a placing in less than one year, Welpac's shares have more than doubled, from 10p in June 1991 to 23p. Don

Wightman was appointed chief executive in February last year, and his efforts to refocus the business and strengthen the balance sheet have earned institutional support.

His arrival was followed by a £2.4 million rights issue in June and an agreement with Stanley Works, of America, for the exclusive supply of Stanley hardware products in

Britain. Last month, Mr Wightman returned to the City to raise £3.45 million via a placing and open offer to fund two acquisitions and establish a joint venture supplying Stanley products in Germany. More than 25 million shares were the subject of the offer, on a one-for-2.2 basis at 19p a share, and the issue was over-subscribed.

Welpac paid an initial £925,000 for Anderson & Firmin, a supplier of gardening hardware products, and a 40 per cent interest in Kibro Elbert Glove, a manufacturer of gardening gloves. The second acquisition is of TJ Hardwood, a supplier of door furniture and other hardware, for an initial consideration of £750,000.

In Germany, a joint venture agreement was signed with Brauckmann & Probsting, a hardware supplier. Welpac is expected to report a small loss for the year to



Wightman: refocused

January 31, but should earn profits of about £1.2 million in the current year as the benefits of acquisitions and restructuring come through, even if consumer demand remains weak.

MARTIN BARROW

LORD Wolfson of Sunningdale, the chairman of Neat, is expected to report a continued recovery tomorrow as the fashion retailing group bucks the gloomy trend.

Next, where David Jones is the chief executive, will benefit from much improved margins, aided by good stock control and healthy second-half like-for-like sales growth. Julie Ramshaw, at Morgan Stanley, has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of "at least" £10 million against last time's loss of £7.2 million. Market forecasts range from £7 million to £10 million. Earnings per share of 2.7p and a dividend of 0.8p (0.7p) are forecast.

Morgan Stanley is looking for profits at Next. Director of £4 million (£2.6 million), while Next retailing is expected to make at least £5.1 million, against a loss of £2.3 million. Net interest charges will fall dramatically, with the possibility of a positive contribution, reflecting the proceeds from the £165 million sale of the Gratian mail order business. Last time's interest charge was £14.4 million.

TODAY

The tough trading conditions affecting the domestic market are expected to restrict the profits growth at Neat. Distilleries, the whisky group best known for its Famous Grouse brand, recession and declining consumption are likely to hold first-half pre-tax profits growth to about 5 per cent at £15.8 million (£15.1 million), according to County NatWest. A dividend of 1.52p (1.38p) is predicted.

Interims: Highland Distilleries.

Finales: Cheshire Racecourse, Cooper Clarke Group, Dewhurst Group, Fortnum & Mason, Fisons, Severn-Tees & Stour. Economic statistics: Credit business (February).

WEDNESDAY

Kleinwort Benson expects Queens Moat Houses to report relatively flat final pre-tax profits of £92 million, against £94.1 million last time, as the hotel group is insulated by its strong continental interests. Market forecasts range from £88 million to £93 million. Earnings per share of 7.5p (8.5p) are predicted, although the dividend should rise to 2.9p (2.6p).

Costain, the construction

and mining group, will remind the market just how tough the last year has been.

Nikko, the Japanese securities house, expects the group to dive to a final pre-tax loss of £25 million, against a profit of £5.5 million last time. Market forecasts range from losses of £20 million to £35 million. A reduced dividend of 5.75p (12.25p) is foreseen.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects Oceanus Group, the freight, environmental and marine services group, to report an advance in final pre-tax profits to £51 million, against £48 million last time. Market forecasts range from £50 million to £55 million.

Despite the effects of the recession in Britain and America, with the freight and environmental services sectors being particularly difficult, the increase in profits will largely reflect interest savings after last year's £88 million rights issue. Marine services should have held up well, with both offshore supply and towage performing well.

Interims: Copper (Frederick), Jersey Electricity Company.

Finales: Blyth, Bodycote International, Brammer, Cimarron, Philip Pangalos

De Beers buys own stolen gems

BY COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

THEfts of rough diamonds from Angola's diamond fields, and illicit dealing in such goods in Antwerp, have reached epidemic levels, according to diamond dealers.

Traders say that stones with a market value of \$6 million find their way to Antwerp every week, and that many of the rough diamonds are of substantial size.

In a three-week period recently, De Beers, whose Central Selling Organisation handles 80 per cent of the world's rough sales, had to buy in \$4.5 million of its own stones. Several international agencies have formally told the Angolan authorities of the damage to the country's international financial standing, including the attitude of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and leading mining companies, if smuggling is not halted.

De Beers confirmed that during a three-week period earlier this year it was offered various parcels of diamonds whose sizes, at over two carats each, were well above average run-of-mine size. The group spent \$4.5 million in "buying in" stones that were recognised as having come from its own concession area.

In December 1990, De Beers initiated a deal with Angola and Endiama, the Angolan state diamond marketing arm, that involved a \$50 million advance to help to develop the Cuango diamond fields, and embraced an intention to spend a further \$50 million on an exploration programme.

In return, De Beers would be granted agreement to sell Angolan production through its CSO network. But the illicit trading could call into question any further Angolan investment by De Beers.

Traders say the fluid political climate ahead of Angolan elections in September and the proclamation of a law allowing citizens to market and possess diamonds and precious metals "as long as they have been acquired outside mining areas granted to companies" have caused problems. The standing down of the army in some

Muddy Fox bicycle group sold

Touche Ross, the administrator of Muddy Fox, the mountain bike company, has sold the business to Sitac, a UK-based engineering and property company, and TI Cycles of India for an undisclosed sum, thought to be about £1 million.

The new owners plan to develop the Muddy Fox business and are looking to appoint distributors in the UK and Germany. Plans are also afoot to expand the business in Europe, North America and Australasia.

Muddy Fox sold about 50,000 bikes in Europe last year at prices between £98 and £1,500. It had a total turnover of £8.5 million.

Salary cut

Bernard Matthews, chairman of the turkey group, takes a £1,032 a week pay cut after poorer 1991 profits, the annual report shows. His annual pay, which is on a profit-related basis, fell from £360,273 in 1990 to £306,584 after a drop from £15.3 million to £13.1 million in pre-tax profits.

Inflation hope

Horst Koehler, the German finance ministry state secretary, said the country's inflation rate would fall well below 4 per cent this year. The cost of living in west Germany rose a provisional 4.7 per cent year-on-year in March.

Dark horse at Lloyd's

One of Lloyd's closely guarded secrets is the famous blindfolded horse at the back of the building. The horse, known as the "dark horse", is traced by the stables near Liverpool New Forest, which is safely away from the city. Emerging from a breath of steam seemed to off across the commercial, with its flowing black mane and tail.

Asked if the horse is black, David Jones, chairman of Next, says "Yes". He transforms the horse into a jet-black creature.

Trustees say the horse is a symbol of the company's success and is a reminder of the importance of the company's name.

They are also fond of the horse's name, "Dark Horse".

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TING CORRESPONDENT

areas has upgraded the situation, and trading diamonds for arms is not unknown. That Angola's oil may be pressed into official channels in England; he says. In 1989, production was 1.1 million carats, up \$232 million. In 1990 production fell to only 560,000 carats, worth \$178 million. Production so far this year has been a trifle.

Muddy Fox bicycle group sold

Teaché Ross, the administrator of Muddy Fox, the new team bike company, has sold the business to Stac 11, based engineering and cycling company, and TCI of India for an undisclosed amount thought to be about \$10 million.

The new owners plan developing the Muddy Fox brand and are looking at point-to-point distributors in the U.S. and Germany. Plans are also to expand the range in Europe, North America and Australia.

Muddy Fox sold 15,000 bikes in Europe, year of sales between \$10 and \$50 million. It had a turnover of \$10 million.

Salary cut

Bernard Matthews, chairman of the bank, has taken a 10% cut over a week after a £100,000 profit warning report, down from £1.2 million last year. He said:

"Inflation has

been the main factor in the decline in our profits. We have had to take a hard look at what we can do to help us through this difficult period."

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Rockawhile to extend Cecil's fine record

HENRY Cecil has won the last three runnings of the Bluebell Fillies Stakes at Wolverhampton, and today's race may again turn out to be significant.

The meeting was abandoned last spring and, in 1989 because of a waterlogged course, but his three previous winners were Indian Skinner (87), Guid The Lily (88) and Madame Dubois (90).

While pride of place obviously goes to Indian Skinner, who went on to score the heights, Madame Dubois was no mean performer.

After opening her account at the midlands course, she went on to win four of her six remaining races, culminating with that haulable victory in the Prix de Royaumont at Longchamp at the Arc meeting.

Pat Eddery, who was on Madame Dubois that day, has now been booked to ride Rockawhile (4.30). Cecil's latest contender.

While understandably reluctant to compare her with the other winners from Warren Place, George Robinson, our Newmarket correspondent, said yesterday that Rockawhile goes pretty nicely at home and that she should win.

A daughter of Dancing Brave, she is out of a mare by Lord Gayle whose stock have invariably relished soft ground. And soft it will be.

Those who prefer to pin their faith on proven deeds

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

rather than speculation will side with Flomising, who made a winning debut on this same course last July before finishing fourth in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster.

However, Rockawhile should win today as she will be receiving weight from Flomising.

In my view, the latter is better chance of winning the Daffodil Handicap on Ruislip, who was backed down to 7-1 from 16-1 before landing a claimer by four lengths over today's surface at Warwick eight days ago.

Earlier this year, this Terry Casey-trained five-year-old was in good form on the all-weather tracks, most notably when going down by half-a-

length and the same behind Educated Pet and Inwinger at Ascot.

With Norton claiming his allowance, Flomising will be meeting Educated Pet on 5lb better terms now, and that should tilt the scales in his favour.

The Hyacinth Handicap can go to Madame, who comes in at 8-1, or Rockawhile, at 12-1. Both are 5,500 guineas on Newmarket's last annum. Judged on the way that he won at Southwell recently, that money could have been well spent.

Rockawhile (4.00), who ploughed through the ground like a bull at the last, will be a welcome change in racing.

Wolverhampton's racing committee is good, too,

judging by last year's racing.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to the

Glengoyne Highland Malt Tamemoria Series qualifier.

Finally, the Laughing Lord (3.45), a well-named horse by Lord Ha Ha, looks in the right sort of form to land a three-timer on the Scottish track where Bewdley Bay can spring a surprise by winning the Glengoyne

Highland Malt Tamemoria Series qualifier.

Third on the Flat at Newcastle last Monday, this Mary Reevley-trained eight-year-old had previously completed a treble in similar claiming hurdles.

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Irish bonus may tempt National winner

BY MICHAEL SEELEY

THE Irish National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday is now the only possible target left this season for Party Politics after that impressive victory over Romany King and Laura's Beau at Aintree on Saturday.

"The £50,000 bonus on offer for winning both races makes it very tempting," said the winning trainer, Nick Gaselee, yesterday "but, although nothing has been decided yet, the probability is that he won't run again this season. Because of his breathing problem, he can only give us his best when fresh."

After all the unfortunate controversy over the Mildmay fences earlier in the week, it was heartening to see the National's reputation as the world's most famous and sporting steeplechase stand even higher after Saturday's race, in which 22 of the 40 starters completed the course.

The criticism that the gradual modifications to the still-draughting National obstacles have spoilt the character of the race are unacceptable and without justification.

Once again, the National placed maximum demands on the endurance of horse and rider. And the usual searching gallop over four-and-a-half miles ruthlessly exposed weaknesses in the vanquished.

To the winner go the spoils of victory. And Party Politics, skilfully trained by Gaselee, overcame the twin disadvantages of his wind infirmity and a tendency to break blood vessels, by at last fulfilling his tremendous potential. Carl Llewellyn, as cool as a cucumber on the 18-hands high giant when winning the National on his third ride in the race, said: "When I showed him the first, it looked so small that I immediately felt more confident. All the way up: the straight, I kept thinking about how often they get caught in front. So I tried to save as much as I could and then gave him a smack at the elbow."

Romany King, now several

pounds higher in the handicap than when the National weights were published, ran his heart out to finish second. "He ran a great race and jumped very well. Lack of stamina beat him, but he'll be a strong horse next year. Both him and Cool Ground have done marvelously for us this season, and both have probably done enough," Toby Baldwin said.

The drying ground was against Laura's Beau, who stayed on strongly to finish third. "I could never quite get to the leaders," said Conor O'Dwyer.

Docklands Express, the 15-2 favourite, could find no more after the third fence from home and finished fourth. "He probably didn't quite see out the trip," said Kim Bailey. "He also looked very small against those fences. He's unlikely to run in the race again. We don't know yet if he's finished for the season."

Twin Oaks, surprisingly, never in the race with a chance, eventually finished a creditable fifth. "You've got to be pleased with that," said Gordon Richards. "He's fit and ready to go still. So if he comes through the race all right, we might run him somewhere again."

Martin Lynch, deputising for the injured Adrian Maguire, went well on Cool Ground until he became outpaced from the fourth fence home. "Cool Ground had a winning chance at the last ditch, but ran a bit flat from there on," said Baldwin. "They obviously don't come back after a hard race in the Gold Cup."

Slight drop

THE official attendance at the Grand National meeting on Saturday was 55,383 — slightly down on last year's total of 56,349.

There was a similar drop over the three days of the Aintree meeting, with 87,859 going through the turnstiles as against 88,741 in 1991.

Verdicts of the big-race riders

BY JACK WATERMAN

THE roulette wheel of fortune that is National Hunt racing has been better illustrated than by Richard C. Woodward's astonishing Aintree meeting.

Dumwoody was top jockey over the three days with four winners but had no fewer than six falls, one of those being on Brown Windsor at Becher's in the Martell Grand National.

Looking back on the race, Dumwoody said: "He gave me a super ride. We were going very well, but he was tending to jump left at the first five fences."

Coming to Becher's, he jumped left again, which would usually have been OK to go into the Canal Turn. But Forest Ranger was on my inside and he went straight. We collided in mid-air and that was that."

The rest of the riders had these comments:

Carl Llewellyn (Party Politics, 1st): "I didn't mean to hit the front when I did but he just pounded away in his own stride and I left him alone. It was only at the elbow that I gave him a reminder. I knew Romany King was there but I was confident mine would keep galloping."

Richard Guest (Romany King, 2nd): "Toby Baldwin was not too pleased with me for coming too soon but I couldn't have ridden him any other way. For an eight-year-old he was brilliant."

Conor O'Dwyer (Laura's Beau, 3rd): "He jumped super but we needed softer ground for the rest to come back to us."

Peter Seddon (Docklands Express, 4th): "He did everything right and three out. I thought I had the beating of the three ahead of me but then they started to go away and I had no answer."

Neale Doughty (Twin Oaks, 5th): "He ran a great race but was always struggling on ground that was a shade faster than he likes."

Simon Burrough (Just So, 6th): "It was brilliant but they went too fast for me over the first two-and-a-half miles. We were flat out but made up a fantastic amount.

Hywel Davies (Ginofar, 11th): "He came back with a cut in his side but the more I coaxed him the better he went. I'd love to come back next year."

Dai Tegg (Forest Ranger, 12th): "We had a brilliant ride. He jumped like a stag but I was lucky to be half a length up at Becher's or we might have gone at the same time as Brown Windsor."

Jamie Osborne (What's The Crack, 13th): "Only his jumping kept him in it. They were always going half a gear too fast for us."

Andy Orkney (Old Applejack, 7th): "He was going as well as anything crossing the Melling Road. He ran a terrific race."

Robbie Supple (Over The Road, 8th): "On the day he just wasn't good enough."

Chris Graat (Stay On Tracks, 9th): "He ran well but just got tired coming into the straight. I don't think I'm ever going to win it."

Martin Lynch (Cool Ground, 10th): "Basically he gave me a very, very good ride and it was a privilege to have the chance to pop round. But perhaps the Gold Cup had taken more out of him than was thought and from Becher's second time he was running with a flat battery."

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Mark Dwyer (Auntie Dot, 14th): "Everything was OK at first but they went too fast for me."

Eamon Murphy (Golden Minstrel, 15th): "Superb ride. He really enjoyed himself and loved every minute."

Mark Dwyer (Auntie Dot, 16th): "She simply ran out of petrol."

Charlie Swan (Roc De Prince, 17th): "He jumped well but if the ground had been a bit softer he would have been up there."

Paul Holley (Mighty Falcon, 18th): "A wonderful ride on the youngest horse in



Down and out: second favourite Brown Windsor makes an early exit from the Martell Grand National at Becher's Brook on the first circuit

of ground towards the finish. A bit more rain would have helped."

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Paul Holley (Mighty Falcon, 18th): "A wonderful ride on the youngest horse in

the race but he was always mid-division and couldn't quite get into the argument."

Jason Callaghan (Radical Lady, 19th): "Dream of a ride but we were outpaced from start to finish."

Michael Bowby (Willsford, 20th): "He jumped super but we faded out at Valentine's second time round."

Ben de Haan (Team Challenge, 21st): "A great ride but the rest were always going too quick for him and we couldn't lay up."

Ronnie Beggan (Sirrah Jay, 22nd and last): "It's the first time I've got round. It was great."

Kevan O'Brien (Rawhedge, unseated rider at 1st fence): "He stood off way too far,

landed on his nose and I was gone."

Loren Wyer (Omerta, fell 22nd): "When we landed after the first I thought he was feeling something and I pulled him up lame after Becher's. It was a shame — I thought we had a great chance."

Scamus Mackey (Stearnsby, brought down 9th): "I was brought down by a loose horse at Valentine's when he was still travelling well within himself."

Graham Bradley (Rowlands Jevons, unseated 15th): "I was never going well until he got rid of me at the Canal Turn."

Mark Richards (Huntworth, pulled up 17th): "He jumped well but that's about all. He'd had enough when I pulled him up."

Robert Bellamy (New Haven, refused 19th): "I refused, got down in the ditch and just shot me over the fence."

Steve Smith (Bees, Bonanza Boy, unseated rider 19th): "A loose horse crossed me; my horse put the brakes on and put me off."

Simon Earle (Golden Fox, refused 20th): "He jumped brilliant but I was riding a finish from the off and he suddenly didn't feel right."

Roddy Greene (Royal Battery, pulled up 28th): "There was always too much pace for him but he gave me a great ride and jumped all the big fences well."

Nigel Hawke (Seagram, pulled up 28th): "No excuses. He was never going well."

Graham McCourt (Hotplate, pulled up 29th): "He was going great guns until I pulled him up because he suddenly didn't feel right."

HOCKEY

A crucial save by Redferne

BY MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

Old Kingstonians.....2
Oxford Hawks.....0
(after extra time)

BY SYDNEY FRISKEN

OLD Kingstonians scored twice in extra time against Oxford Hawks at Dilton Fields yesterday to earn their place in the second division of the Pizza Express National League next season.

The evenly matched sides kept the crowd enthralled, with the Oxford team launching some vigorous attacks early in the second period, when Clark went close.

They had a great chance seven minutes before the end of normal time. Bennett was brought down inside the circle by Redferne, who made amends with a remarkably fine save from Dawson's effort from the spot.

In the eighth minute of extra time Cox scored from Neil Murray's centre. Oxford Hawks were unlucky when a shot by Bentley, a rolling substitute, hit a post before Coates' made the match safe for Old Kingstonians.

The remaining place in the National League was filled by Brooklands who, defeated Taunton Vale 3-1, skated four goals for Brooklands. Brook two and Bennett and McGuire one apiece. Connolly scored for Taunton Vale.

OLD KINGSTONIANS: M Redferne, M Murray, J Briggs, S Neale, C Wall, N Murray, D Redferne, R Ken, S Coakley (sub to Cox), M Parfitt, P Coates.

OXFORD HAWKS: P Humphreys, G Dutton, D Dawson, N Abbot, N Dore, S Mott, A Clark, P Dunhill, P Bennett, T Shan, S Dawson.

Umpires: L Allen (Southern Counties) and Babu Siva (Southern Counties).

England won both the under-16 and under-18 trophies in the four nations' tournament in Aberdeen yesterday. They beat Ireland 4-0 in both.

The England women, without their Great Britain players, were beaten in two training matches by Spain in Terrassa over the weekend, losing 1-0 and 4-0.

ROWING

Oxford stamina tells at close

ROWING

BY MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

The winners' medals were presented to Oxford on Saturday, but there were no losers in the 138th University Boat Race. Oxford won by one-and-a-quarter lengths, but that statistic is secondary to the fact that the 18 individuals involved produced one of the greatest races since 1829.

For 16 men to row side by side for three-and-a-half miles is unusual. Even when Oxford broke around the long Surrey bend from the Crab Tree to Chiswick Steps, Elizabeth Chick's superlative steering and Ian Gardner's coolness at stroke were large

factors, but where did that stamina come from?

Peter Bridge, the Oxford five man and the only full GB international oarsman in either crew, gave the answer and the name of the former East German coach, Jürgen Gröbler, emerged. "We really felt the strength that we had built up over six months under Jürgen's methods."

This was the first year that Gröbler, the full-time coach of Leander and technical adviser to the GB squad, had been involved with a Boat Race crew. Steve Royle and Pat Sweeney, the Oxford coaches, sought his help last autumn and the Oxford group followed his, now renowned, rigorous programme from October onwards.

Gröbler has a "one race" philosophy. The recent defeat of his Leander squad crew, Redgrave and Pinsent included, in the Tideway Head caused some mutterings along the towpath, but Gröbler's aim with them is the Olympic Games and their March training, at low rates, was different from their ri-

vals. His time schedule for Oxford ended last Saturday. Peter Bridge, the Oxford five man and the only full GB international oarsman in either crew, gave the answer and the name of the former East German coach, Jürgen Gröbler, emerged. "We really felt the strength that we had built up over six months under Jürgen's methods."

He sees the Boat Race crews as one of the feeders for the national squad. "A lot of blue boat rowers are now a part of the British team — Matthew Pinsent, Johnny Searle, Gavin Stewart, Rupert Ohholzer, Terry Dillon, John Garrett, Ali, except Gar-

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MONDAY APRIL 6 1992

Sunderland defeat another first division club on their way to the FA Cup final at Wembley

Byrne brings joy to Wearside

Sunderland 1
Norwich City 0

By CLIVE WHITE

AMID scenes of unfettered joy, which could not have contrasted more sharply or poignantly with the tragic occasion when Hillsborough last staged a semi-final three years ago, Sunderland reached the FA Cup final yesterday with another thoroughly deserved victory over first division opposition.

The euphoria that has carried Sunderland aloft throughout this competition, however disturbing their second division form has been, again enabled them to raise their game and overturn the odds as Norwich City went the same way as West Ham United and Chelsea before them, although this time without recourse to a replay.

Almost inevitably, the hero of the hour was again John Byrne, their Republic of Ireland international, who maintained his record of scoring in each round to bring his cup total to seven and his overall tally this season to 21.

If he scores in the final, against Liverpool or Portsmouth, he will become only the tenth player in the 120-year-old competition to maintain a 100 per cent record throughout. The £200,000 Sunderland paid Brighton for him earlier in the season has long since looked a steal.

It would be over-estimating Norwich's season to say that they were a bitter disappointment. Yet to those people who knew them as a pure footballing side, they were certainly a huge let-down.

Their decision earlier in the season to sacrifice a few of

their principles may have saved their first division necks but it also probably cost them a visit to Wembley. Quite simply, they failed to play sufficient football.

They did, however, play their part in an honest, if unspectacular match, that will have done much to repair the good name of the Sheffield ground which, nevertheless, must be forever tainted by the death of 95 people there in the 1989 semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

The sight of both sets of supporters applauding each other at the end was in keeping with the relationship established between the clubs in the 1985 League Cup final — better known as the "Friendly Final".

Fortunately, the scenes yesterday will live long in the memory, certainly that of the north east, no matter the outcome at Wembley on May 9.

Should Liverpool be their opponents, it will provide obvious comparisons with 1973 when Sunderland, then also a second division side, achieved an unforgettable and totally unexpected victory over the great Leeds United team.

If Sunderland, who have not returned to Wembley since in the FA Cup, go on to repeat the triumph, one can expect Malcolm Crosby, their coach, to be given the freedom of the city, even if the manager's chair is still kept from him.

Sunderland have declined to promote him to the position of manager in succession to Dennis Smith until their safety in the second division has been secured.

"They might have to give



Arms deal: Byrne, of Sunderland, celebrates his winning goal against Norwich City yesterday

me a new title for Wembley," Crosby said. "There's too much talk about the job; we've got important League games to win yet."

With Crosby reluctant to comment further on the matter, it was left to others to highlight the absurdity of the situation. "Whoever heard of a caretaker-manager leading out a team at Wembley," Bob Stokes, Sunderland's most famous manager, said.

It was again hard to comprehend their failing in the League, watching them take firm control of this semi-final. They say that a good start is essential in such games but it did not seem to do much good for Norwich, who must have been boosted by the news of Fleck's recovery from injury.

Norwich were already beginning to run out of ideas when Sunderland scored the all-important goal. Byrne began and ended the move, though the surging burst into space by Rush, and

the accuracy of Atkinson's cross, were as crucially important as was Norwich's absence in defence. Byrne, standing unmarked at the far post, could hardly fail to miss with his header.

Norwich's final ball was never good enough and too often they were hit long and aimlessly towards the Sunderland goalmouth, where Rogan dominated the aerial waves. The quality stuff all came from Sunderland, for whom Bracey and Davenport produced performances that turned back the clock to their finest days.

Norwich were left to rue their one outstanding chance of the match when Fleck, managing to escape his jailers, crossed hard and low in the 84th minute only for Sutch, for some inexplicable reason, to decline the chance.

Liverpool escape, page 28

RUGBY LEAGUE

Salford gain space

SALFORD and Bradford Northern clung to first division survival hopes yesterday, Salford becoming the latest side to take advantage of the Widnes side, while Bradford Northern scrambled a one-point win over Wakefield (Keith Macklin writes).

The injury-hit and dispirited Widnes drew level at 14-14 against Salford, but two tries in four minutes from Evans and Hadley gave the visitors a 24-20 win and a possible lifeline.

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Decision day in players' dispute

By PETER BALL

THE Premier League has its last chance to avoid a confrontation with the players when they meet at Lancaster Gate this morning, shortly before the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) announces the result of its ballot, which is expected to endorse industrial action almost unanimously.

When talks between the two sides over the players'

demand for ten per cent, their present entitlement, of the television contract income broke up on Wednesday, it had been expected that further talks would take place.

However, with Rick Parry, the Premier League's chief executive, spending three days in France, the meetings have not been able to take place, leaving both sides on the brink.

To some observers that suggested that the league is ac-

tively looking for confrontation, but Parry denied that last night.

There is little doubt that some clubs will be pressing for a hard line, but there was some hope that the sensible party, with Peter Robinson, of Liverpool, and Martin Edwards, of Manchester United, almost unanimously.

Parry is expected to phone Gordon Taylor, the PFA's chief executive, as soon as the meeting has ended. If not before. If there is no agreement, the players will begin their action.

"I think there will be some positive movement from our side," Parry said. "We are not a long way apart. Gordon has had conversations with a number of chairman over the last few days, and I think the mood is fairly positive."

Parry is expected to phone Gordon Taylor, the PFA's chief executive, as soon as the meeting has ended. If not before. If there is no agreement, the players will begin their action.

Mansell's title drive gathers searing pace

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN SÃO PAULO

THE elusive world title shifted into view for Nigel Mansell yesterday. He won his third consecutive grand prix in this year's Formula One world championship, taking the chequered flag here 28 seconds ahead of his team-mate, Ricardo Patrese. The two Williams-Renaults lapped all the other cars which lasted the course on the grueling Interlagos track.

Michael Schumacher was third. The Ferraris were fourth and fifth, and sixth, surprisingly, was Michele Alboreto in the Footwork.

This was an extraordinary achievement by Williams and Renault. The result of the Brazilian grand prix was never in doubt as both cars sped into the first corner and holding that for 12 more laps, but then, on the thirteenth, Schumacher and Jean Alesi soared past him. The engine was intermittently cutting out and the end was near for the world champion, a humiliating result in front of his home crowd.

They fixed his electrical and transmission faults, but by the time he got going the engine had overheated. Senna fared little better, coming third into the first corner and holding that for 12 more laps, but then, on the thirteenth,

Schumacher and Jean Alesi soared past him. The engine was intermittently cutting out and the end was near for the world champion, a humiliating result in front of his home crowd.

It was also an unlucky race for Martin Brundle who, despite the fine performances of his team-mate, Schumacher, has never lost heart and has been racing with great courage.

Sixth into the first straight; he moved up to fifth and then tried to take a slow-

ing Alesi. The two cars came together and only the Ferrari survived the crash. It was an early bath, too, for Johnny Herbert as he was unceremoniously pushed on to the grass by two Ligiers, which were battling each other. Ferrari, though being lapped by the winner, could conceivably claim to have had the best race of the season as both cars finished and earned points.

But the reality is that this was achieved with last year's engine, presumably not the best way to progress towards challenging Williams and Renault. The Lion is well and truly roaring now and it looks as if there are only sheep left for him to prey on.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS DETAILS

At Huddersfield. Att: 40,462. Ref: N Midgley	
HT: 0-0. NORWICH 0	SUNDERLAND 1
Scorers:	Byrne
Bookings: Fox 15, Bowen 75	Bennett 60 (Bell)
Subs:	
NORWICH	SUNDERLAND
Shots (on target/total)	5/10 2/8
Comers (left/right)	3/5 3/2
Crosses (left/right)	21/27 17/14
Free kicks/pens/sqnt	12/ - 13/ -
Offsides	3/8 2/4
Possession (gained/lost)	27/84 26/84
NORWICH (4-4-2)	SUNDERLAND (4-4-2)
Goals	Goals
Player attempt	Player attempt
L By On	R By On
M Walton - - -	A Norman - - -
J Cutrone - - -	J Key - - -
G O'Brien - - -	D Rutherford - - -
I Butterworth - - -	K Bell - - -
J Polden - - -	P Hardiman - - -
R Fox - - -	R Marshall - - -
R Fleck - - -	P Davenport - - -
G Bowden - - -	G Thompson - - -
C Gutteridge - - -	D Dyer - - -
M Bowen - - -	I Alcock - - -
D Sutcliffe - - -	O Bennett - - -
Unsubs: R Ullah - - -	Unsubs: R Brady - - -

THE NUMBER of clear cut-chances won clearly in Norwich's favour, five of ten goal attempts, while the visitors had two clear chances, being Byrne's goal, his 21st of the season. Norwich also pumped ball

after ball into the penalty area (48 crosses in total) — Bowen the main provider from the right with 14 crosses and two from the left — and forced eight corners.

RESULTS: 1. N Mansell (GB), Williams, 1st 35min; 2. R Patrese (It), Williams, 1st 18:18min; 3. M Schumacher (Ger), Benetton, at one lap; 4. J Alesi (It), Footwork, at one lap; 5. S Cecotto (Br), Footwork, at one lap; 6. J Alboreto (It), Footwork, at one lap; 7. G Morbidelli (It), Minardi, at two laps; 8. J Lethbridge (GB), Footwork, at two laps; 9. J Lehto (Fin), Delta, at two laps; 10. J Villeneuve (Can), Footwork, at three laps; 11. S Danner (USA), Footwork, at three laps; 12. M Hakkinen (Fin), Lotus, at four laps.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (after 10 rounds): 1. N Mansell, 30pts; 2. Patrese, 16:3; 3. Schumacher, 11:4; 4. Berger (Aust), 8:5; 5. Senna (Br), 4: 6. Alesi, 3, equal 7. A de Angelis (It), Footwork, 1: 8. Capello (It), Footwork, at one lap; 9. Alboreto (It), Footwork, at one lap; 10. G Morbidelli (It), Minardi, at two laps; 11. J Lethbridge (GB), Footwork, at two laps; 12. J Villeneuve (Can), Footwork, at three laps; 13. Hakkinen (Fin), Lotus, at three laps; 14. D Arnoux (Fr), Footwork, at three laps; 15. D Coulthard (GB), Williams, at three laps; 16. J Lehto (Fin), Delta, at four laps; 17. S Danner (USA), Footwork, at four laps; 18. J Villeneuve (Can), Footwork, at four laps; 19. M Hakkinen (Fin), Lotus, at four laps.

More rugby, page 27

Andrew helps to keep Toulouse on course

BY CHRIS THAU

ROB Andrew, playing his first full league game of rugby union for Toulouse, made a telling contribution to a valuable 16-12 away win against their main pool rivals, Bourgoin-Jallieu, a side captained by the French No. 8, Marc Cecilion.

The England stand-off half scored eight points from two penalties and a conversion to help his side qualify for the knock-out stages of the French championship, starting in three weeks time.

Toulouse are the leading

contenders for the title, held by Béziers, and Andrew features prominently in the plans of their coach, Jean-Claude Skrela.

Another travelling international, Troy Coker, the Australian lock and No. 8, is unlikely to play for Harlequins in the Pilkington Cup final on May 2. The game coincides with Queensland's critical match with Auckland in the Super Six competition in Brisbane.

More rugby, page 27

Germans lift ban on Krabbe

ether you are guilty or you are not guilty. What are you supposed to think after this decision?

The IAAF is likely to discuss the affair at a meeting at the end of May and the German federation will have to submit a complete report.

The lifting of the ban was announced by Guenter Emig, the chairman of the DLV's independent legal commission, which met for 14 hours on Saturday and then for a further three-and-a-half hours yesterday. He

However, Krabbe and fellow-German internationals Silke Möller and Grit Breuer, who were banned on February 15 because they allegedly manipulated urine samples during random tests in South Africa, may still not be able to run at the Barcelona Olympics!

Professor Arnold Ljungqvist, chairman of the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) medical commission, said:

"The decision could be declared invalid. The athletes have no reason to feel safe despite this remarkable turn-around."

"I am very surprised but I am not disappointed over the decision. The Germans received a punishment that suddenly does not exist. Ei-

spelless. It can only have been manipulation. The samples were identical. Of that there is no doubt."

Rüdiger Nicker, who leads the German federation's fight against drug-taking, said that the ruling will "definitely make our task all the harder". Norbert Laurenz, another German anti-doping official, added: "I think that it could make doping testing very difficult, financially and in practical terms."

It means that someone, or maybe more than one person, may have to accompany samples everywhere to rule out manipulation."

Krabbe said: "It is a weight off my shoulders. We knew we were always innocent and that the correct decision would be made. It will take a while to get over the stress of all this but we have to get training hard."

However, Professor Joseph Keul, who was an official doctor at the Winter Olympics, said: "I am



LOOKS

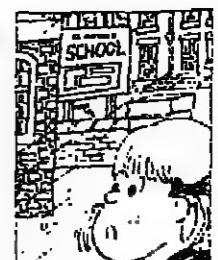
Constituency
chic — what to
wear on the
campaign trail



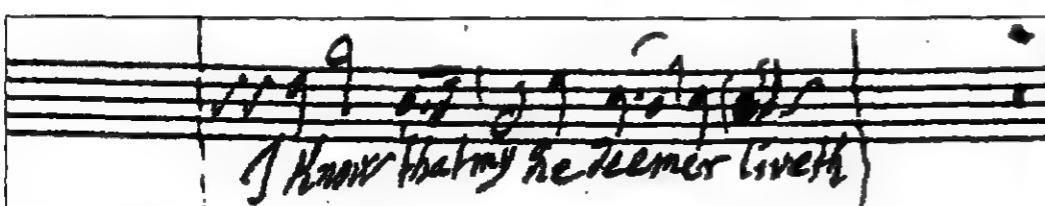
LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY APRIL 6 1992

EDUCATION
Can any party
prevent
teacher
redundancies?



Hallelujah, 'Messiah' is 250 years old



George Hill
follows the score
of a masterwork
which has
topped the charts
since the 18th
century

An ageing opera composer who had lost the knack of pulling London audiences, an actress who found it prudent to go to ground for a while after a messy adultery case, an attack from a half-demented dean, and a work so controversial that it scarcely dared to speak its name — the antecedents of Handel's *Messiah* hardly prefigured its future as the most praised and probably the most loved choral work ever written.

The oratorio had its first hearing 250 years ago, on April 13, 1742, in a music hall on the banks of the Liffey. The anniversary is being celebrated by performances in London and Dublin. In London last week it was performed at St George's Hanover Square (where Handel regularly worshipped in the latter part of his life) in the form in which it was first heard: with the relatively slim orchestral resources that mid-18th century Dublin could supply. In Dublin itself, a battery of international stars under Sir Neville Marriner will give a gala performance next Monday — the anniversary itself — before an audience which will include the television cameras of Channel 4 and Radio Telefis Eireann.

Nobody is likely to call it sacreligious, or criticise performers for joining in with Sir Neville's "club of fiddlers". The doubts that Handel must have felt about the work's reception were conclusively resolved — not instantly, but within his lifetime.

A generation later, *Messiah* had risen almost to the status of holy writ. In this country it came to be performed incessantly as a kind of seasonal ritual, half-devotional and half-patriotic. For audiences and a host of amateur and professional singers *Messiah* still stands as the archetype of the large choral work.

Yet it was written as an offbeat venture at a low point of Handel's fortunes. In form, it is unlike anything he had written before, and not very like the work he wrote afterwards. Although it helped to change the course of his career away from opera and towards oratorio, it is so much an odd one out among his oratorios that it almost deserves to stand in a category of its own.

All his life, Handel had been a man of the theatre. For 30 years the German immigrant had entertained London audiences with stately operas on classical themes.

so sensitive that it demanded a discreet, out-of-town try-out. His collaborator, Charles Jennens, had sent him a script which did not merely flesh out an Old Testament legend, but presented the central Christian drama of incarnation and redemption in words drawn from the Bible itself. The very words of God dragged before the footlights — would the public ever accept it?

Jennens had done his work brilliantly. He had turned an abstract doctrinal theme into a three-act opera without characters or setting, yet rich in contrasts of mood and pictorial detail. Handel must have itching to set it. But he had been too much the professional to write without any prospect of performance. So he threw himself on the text, and finished it with many struggles, in just 24 days. In November 1741 he crossed to Ireland for what proved to be a ten-month season. He had arranged for a number of London musicians to make their way to Dublin to form a nucleus of performers.

One of them was Susanna Cibber, sister of the composer Thomas Arne. An actress of distinction, she was a singer of only moderate gifts.

According to Handel's friend and biographer, Charles Burney, "her voice was a thread", but he recorded that "Handel was very fond of her" and wrote for her carefully to avoid overburdening her.

She was still recovering from a recent scandalous embroilment in London. After tolerating an affair she was having with another man, her husband, Theophilus Cibber, had exposed the whole thing to the public by attempting to sue the man for adultery.

Dublin was then at the height of its Augustan golden age. The great Dean Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, now old and ill, still brooded over St Patrick's cathedral. For the prosperous Protestant upper class, the presence of the famous Handel must have confirmed Dublin's claims as a cultural capital.

In Fishamble Street, a new "Musick Hall" (now demolished), like so much of Georgian Dublin, except for one wall and the doorway provided a worthy setting for his concerts, which were very successful. Nevertheless, he delayed the premiere of *Messiah* until he had been in the city for five months.

Winning scores: George Frideric Handel, the composer of *Messiah*, in a portrait by Philippe Mercier, probably from the late 1720s

A choir had to be recruited locally. In January, Swift gave permission for singers — Vicars Choral — from the cathedral choir to take part in Handel's concerts. Next day he sent another letter, painful to read — a last terrifying flash of the old *sæva Indulgatio*:

"... whereas it hath been reported, that I gave a licence to certain vicars to assist at a club of soldiers in Fishamble Street, I do hereby declare that I remember no such licence to have been ever signed or sealed by me; and that if ever such pretended licence shall be produced, I do hereby annul and vacate the said licence; intreating my... Sub-Dean and Chapter to punish such vicars as shall ever appear there, as songsters, fiddlers, pipers, trumpeters, drummers, drum-majors, or in any sonal quality, according to the flagitiousness of their respective disobedience, rebellion, perjury and ingratitude."

It

was still recovering from a recent scandalous embroilment in London. After tolerating an affair she was having with another man, her husband, Theophilus Cibber, had exposed the whole thing to the public by attempting to sue the man for adultery.

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She was still recovering from a recent scandalous embroilment in London. After tolerating an affair she was having with another man, her husband, Theophilus Cibber, had exposed the whole thing to the public by attempting to sue the man for adultery.

Press declared: "An Oratorio either is an Act of Religion or it is not; if it is, I ask if the Playhouse is a fit Temple to perform it in or a Company of Players fit Ministers of God's word... what a Prophetication of God's Name..."

Messiah was received with raptures. One member of the audience, a person, was so transported with Mrs Cibber's expressive performance of "He was despised" that he rose from his seat, and tatteredly exclaimed: "Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven!"

The performance made £400 for charity. Part of this was devoted to the relief of debtors, and made possible the release of 142 debtors from prison.

Even after his Dublin triumphs, Handel continued to treat Messiah with caution. Back in London, he put off its first night for months, at last slipping it into the tail end of a successful season of other oratorios, and suppressing its explosive title altogether on the first few occasions. It was never published in his lifetime.

These precautions did not prevent hostile reactions. A letter in the

Nor is it only a spectator sport: anyone who has sung in a choir must have sung *Messiah*. To sing it worthily is no easier than with any other great music, but it is easy to sing at a level where one may feel part of the drama and the generous warmth of the music.

It is robust enough to survive almost any abuse. When 3,000 English sopranos, altos, tenors and basses in the annual Albert Hall "Messiah from Scratch" below through the intricacies of the great "Amen" — and then hold their breath not to spoil the giddy void of silence four bars from the end — musical purists may shudder, but Handel's ghost must smile to hear that the show still goes on.

INSIDE

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The Media section will now appear on Tuesday. Science this week is on Wednesday

TOMORROW Shaw's phonetic alphabet

You can't put a price on wasted time

WORKING LIFE: Libby Purves on the trials of touting for trade



tomer is always right, the swine. What does this endless pinching do to the human soul? Psychologists, never having had to audition themselves, tend to concentrate on the warping effects of sexual rejection or being ripped untimely from the maternal breast. They never give a thought to the equally cruel routine rejection of one's work.

For estimates are work. Barry might do a brilliant offer, cutting the pipework costs by a cunning detour under the garage and throwing in a free inflatable crocodile only to be totally ignored.

An actor may vainly work all week on an audition, a salesman produce a customised proposal, or a copywriter put her whole soul into a new way of telling the aspirational AB woman that Renaults

make your heels grow higher. All for nothing.

I once had a flirtation with the world of commercial voiceovers. They shut me up in a cellar in Soho for two full hours and made me intone "Natural Choice" — it's the natural choice" in a thousand different voices ("Could you put more warmth into the choice, lovey? Think nuts, think furry squirrels"). Drained and ashamed, I went home only to be told a week later that "The client's decided to go with Richard Briers". I snarled that I hoped they would be very happy together, and vowed to stick to honest toil.

The following week a magazine asked for a 500-word synopsis and then lost it, and the BBC, having made me do a pilot programme (pretty naff, actually), kept a nine-month silence and then without a word opened the series with

Another Woman presenting it. She even used one of my jokos. And was there an NHS Rejection Therapist to turn to? There was not.

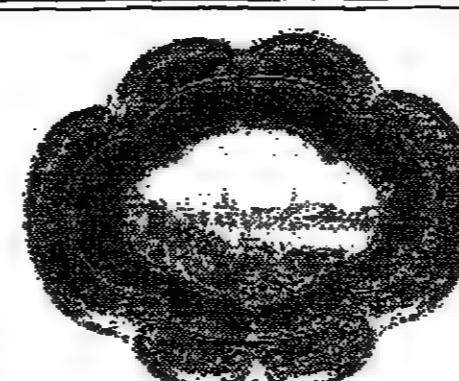
At least, if you have estimated, auditioned or posted an unsolicited MS, you have had time to prepare for failure. Even worse is the poisonous showbiz practice of the Availability Check. This involves a brisk woman ringing you up and asking if you are interested in going to the Seychelles for a week's filming, starring in the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, guesting for Edna Everage or undergoing some similar life-transforming experience. She will be most insistent that you "pencil it in" and keep the dates free. Chat-show researchers then spend an hour asking your opinion on everything from incest to City fraud. Then silence. Ring back and she will say that the client loved the idea, only Richard Briers came free...

TOMORROW Midlife: Neil Lyndon

23rd June, 1992

An important date for European Ceramics. Mark it in your diary.

Last October, this charming Meissen cabinet tray dating from 1870 successfully sold at Sotheby's for £5,280, well in excess of its upper estimate. Last month's sale of Continental Ceramics and Glass was 80% sold, indicating that the market for fine ceramics and glass remains strong with good prices being paid for high quality items.



The Meissen mark for the whole
of the 19th century and first
quarter of the 20th century

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 13TH APRIL

Many exceptional pieces from the 16th to the 19th century, including Meissen, Sevres, German Faience, Venetian and Biedermeier glass, have already been entered for our June European Ceramics and Glass sale. If you would like to include fine porcelain or glass in this sale, please contact Peter Arney or Simon Cottle of our Ceramics Department on 071-108 5134-3 by 13th April latest.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE
SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

REMBRANDT: Until most Old Masters, Rembrandt has been seen for the last decade, owing largely to the activities of the Rembrandt Committee, which has been demolishing large numbers of once-revered Rembrands to the delight of his many followers. This show consists of 46 paintings accepted by the committee, plus 12 now ascribed to lesser men, with background material to elucidate the master's work.

NATIONAL GALLERY: Tralagar Square, WC2 (071-839 5321), Daily, 10am-5pm (Wed, Fri to 8pm).

WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION: A group's annual show of watercolours has been going strong since 1867. Like last year's, this year's is smaller and more select. Highlights include the second Turner that Ruskin ever bought, Gaspard's famous "Cathedral at Portmeirion", a copy of Constable's "The Hay Wain" and early Constable and Lake Palms. Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6176) Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm (Thurs to 6.30pm).

WILLIAM TELL: John Cox's production of Rossini's epic returns to Covent Garden, with conductor Christopher D'Orazio's first incarnation by Michel Plasson. The impressive Gregory Yurish takes the title role, while the taunting part of Arnold is taken by high tenor Chris Merritt. Jane Eaglen sings the Queen of Spain and the Duke of Alva. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 1071-240 10660, Thurs, Fri, 6pm.

THE ROYAL BALLET: Covent Garden's resident company performs in Britain's first major international festival. Kenneth MacMillan's passionate *Mulan* and a triple bill of Ashton's cool *Monotones*, MacMillan's *Chôl* how ballet and *Swan Lake*. Birmingham's *Bizet* ballet. Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-652 2486). Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm.

■ ANGELS IN AMERICA: Strong performances in Tony Kushner's farcical but poignant drama, *Angels, Insects, politics, everything*. National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252), Tonight-Thurs, 7.30pm, £12-£15, £10-£12.50, £8-£10.

■ THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nights so high, low on story frenzies. Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 0044), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, Sun, 4pm, 1.30pm.

■ THE DARK RIVER: Accomplished revival of Rodney Ackland's 1937 drama *Nastalgia and Nostalgia* in an England drifting towards war. The Crucible, Richmond (081-940 3633), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Sat, 4pm, 1.30pm.

■ DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: A difficult Stewards' Michael Bryne, Bill Paterson as Arnel Dorfman's Christian soldier, and a gripping performance by Diane Fletcher, as the maid. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-636 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 1.30pm.

■ DIGGING FOR FIRE: A dramedy of rural life in modern Ireland but upturningly played. Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388), Mon-Sat, 8pm, 4.30pm.

■ BLIND SPOT: Three generations of cleverly written, compelling but emotionally troubled, refreshing play by Lee Blessing, subtly acted Greenwich Studio, Prince of Orange, Regent's Place, 1081-856 2862, Tues-Sun, 8pm, Sat, 4pm, 1.30pm.

■ AN EVENING WITH GARY UNICKER: Sometimes, drill look at the lunacies of a illustrated woman involved. In a sombre setting, the *Guinevere*, St Martin's, WC2 (071-454 5073), Mon-Thurs, Sun, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, Sun, 4pm.

■ FROM JACK TO A KING: Whity and stylized version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands to

the music of the Stones.

■ NEW RELEASES:

BRANCHES OF THE TREE: Four generations of middle-class Bengali families in Sabyasai Ray's microscope. Tally and mellow. Discussion on life's woes. National Film Theatre (071-958 3232).

■ DICKINSON (15): Goldie Hawn as the wife who doubts her husband's identity. Playing it safe, but strong on atmosphere. Stars John Heard, director, Dennis Hopper. Odeons: Kensington (071-946 6661), West End (0426 19574).

■ KUFFS (15): Immature police protection officer (Chris Sarandon) who's a bit dim, a bit flirty and a bit addle to Hollywood's cop comedies. Director, Bruce A. Evans.

■ MURDER ON THE WEST (17-20): MGM Mayhem (071-839 1521).

■ MGM OXFORD (10-13 0031):

■ WHATEVER (17-19): MGM (071-792 3332).

■ SCORSESSE X (4-6): Stimulating collection of short films from the director of the 1974 *Taxi Driver*, a moving portrait of his parents in New York's Little Italy (CA 1071-938 3647).

■ CURRENT:

LA BELLE NOUVEAU (15): Jacques Rivette's hyper-exploitation of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. Stars Isabelle Adjani, Emmanuelle Béart, Isabelle Adjani, Cheesha (071-351 3742/3743) Metro (071-437 3742/071-837 4402).

■ GUSY (18): Warren Beatty as the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sleek,

but not much else.

■ NEW BOOKING TO 20TH NOV:

■ LA VIDA ES CHIPI (15):

■ THE HAMSTERS LOW DOWN (15):

■ COFFEE (15):

■ ALBERT (15):

■ MURK (15):

■ SANDY MC SHANE'S POCKET DRIVERS (15):

■ THE LADY'S NOT FOR LOVING (15):

■ LUNGEN (15):

■ ADLOWN (15):

■ THE COULD COULD (15):

■ THE COULD COULD (15):

■ THE COULD COULD (15):

■ NOW BOOKING UNTIL 5 SEPT:

■ AGGRESSOR (15):

■ APOLLO (15):

■ BURGESS (15):

■ CLOUTIER (15):

■ DODGE CITY (15):

■ FORTRESS (15):

■ GENEVIEVE (15):

■ GRIMM (15):

■ HORNBY (15):

■ JEWEL (15):

■ KID (15):

■ LONDON (15):

■ MISTERIA (15):

■ MURK (15):

■ NINETEEN (15):

■ PEGGY (15):

■ PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (15):

■ PREDATOR (15):

■ REVENGE (15):

■ ROBIN HOOD (15):

■ ROSE (15):</

Fo, fun and a fair bit of fee

As Dario Fo's new play comes to London, Benedict Nightingale goes to Milan for an audience with the Vatican's least favourite dramatist

Dario Fo is a paradoxical person. He has been arrested as a subversive, and proposed for the Nobel Prize by no less a figure than Alberto Moravia. He found the old Italian Communist Party too right-wing and still regards himself as working class, yet he has an ample estate in Umbria, a seaside villa, and an apartment in Milan that might be a cross between a Belgravian penthouse and the British Museum. He writes violently anti-establishment farces that have nevertheless triumphed in the heart of our establishment theatre, the West End.

Nobody can be sure if Fo's *The Pope and the Witch*, which opens in London next Monday, will match his *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* at the box-office; but it has set cash registers and alarm-bells ringing in Italy. What else was to be expected when the nation's most celebrated comic was dramatising and impersonating its most august resident? The play shows John Paul II's transformation from a paranoid bully-boy into a sacking-wearing crusader for contraception and legalised drugs; and with all Fo's instinct for mischief.

Growing addiction among the Italian young and the Mafia's control of the drug market were the reasons Fo wrote the play. "I needed a very important person going through a conflict, a crisis, a catharsis. He would at first be against liberalisation of the drug laws and then in favour. It could have been a president, but in the end it was this very conservative Pope."

He is no friend of the Vatican, nor it of him. The Pope he regards as a "monomaniac", obsessed with birth control, hostile to progressive theologians, insensitive to events in South America. There is also a suggestion in the play that John Paul I was murdered by a cardinal in cahoots with the Mafia. "I don't know whether it happened," he says, "but you can expect everything from the Vatican. They have killed in the past."



Dario Fo, holding one of his commedia dell'arte masks. "Most cardinals would like to burn me"

though unfailingly courteous, clearly having trouble containing his restlessness. Mostly we chatted in his apartment, which overlooks southern Milan from high in a posh block. Even without the six white sofas and the oriental maid in the Snoopy shirt, it would be an impressive place. There is an Etruscan lion dating from 600 BC, a lovely medieval pietra row of commedia dell'arte masks, a statue of St Sebastian (minus arrows) from Mantegna's workshop, Cretan vases, and lesser antiquities galore.

Clearly, Fo has made a spectacular recovery from any early belief that property is theft — but who would begrudge his success? Few men give more in performance or keep a more punishing schedule. The day before we met he had given a solo show in Genoa, and the day afterwards, his 66th birthday, he was doing another. In Milan, he told me with satisfaction, he could take £45 million lire (£20,000), a

performance at the box office. Unsurprisingly, it is now the private theatre owners who mostly seek his services. Is there not a danger, then, of losing the audiences who thronged to see him in less grand buildings in the 1970s? Well, Fo is a railwayman's son and says he prefers performing to the class to which he feels he still belongs. But he is happy to stimulate what he regards as the enlightened bourgeoisie and, especially, address the disaffected young: "Even if they don't come from a proletarian family, they often live in the same conditions. Even some upper middle class people are proletarian these days. Of course the offspring of the very rich don't come to my shows. They go skiing."

Isn't there another danger,

which is that audiences laugh at the farce and ignore the radicalism? Fo has criticised some of his foreign director, including West End ones, for piling on the fun. His own performances are notable for coolness, detachment, "rigore", a balance between hilarity and seriousness. "Comedy should always come out of the situation and be handled with care," he says. "Perform it as a tragedy, not forcing the fun. Then the grotesque will emerge."

Grotesque is a word

Fo uses often. For him, it seems to mean reality rendered savagely satirical, as in the early Italian commedia or plays of Moliera, a dramatist he is fond of quoting. He it was who said that while solemn drama might wet the cheeks, comedy opens the mouth and the mind, allowing the nails of reason to be embedded in the brain. "You remember things much better through laughter than through tears," declares Fo.

But remember what? These

days Fo seems surer of what he is against — the human "pike" he sees feeding on the weaker fish — than what he is for. The accusation that he sympathised with the Red Brigades was always unjust. But he once embraced Marxism more

forthrightly than he does now. "All sensible people are very confused," he says. "We are facing a great crisis, perhaps a huge tragedy, and not only in Italy. A person with clear ideas is a kind of monster."

"But only stupid people

think that the fall of the Berlin Wall will destroy socialism. The established oligarchy of the real socialism is inside man. It wasn't born with Marx. It was in the communities of Italy in the middle ages. You can't say it is finished."

Maybe so, maybe not. What

is clear is that Fo himself is far from finished. Soon he will be directing *The Barber of Seville* in Paris and Amsterdam. Then it is off to America with a play about the resistance the Indians put up to European invaders. It will show "hundreds of thousands killed in very cruel battles," and it will be very funny, "grotesque": quintessential Dario Fo.

• *The Pope and the Witch* is in preview at the Comedy Theatre, Panton St, SW1 (071-867 1045), opening next Monday

White Oak Project
Sadler's Wells

comic dances: a trio, for instance, in which Baryshnikov deals briskly and efficiently with two importunate partners, and an ensemble switching gestures and heavily exaggerated rhetoric.

"... show...": ... highly variable Morris at his astignt and amusing best. On the other hand, his solo for Baryshnikov to Alexander Tchernopin's Bagatelles is sometimes more perfunctory in its imitation of child-like play.

Baryshnikov and John Gardner perform an adagio by Lar Lubovitch admirably: the banality of the choreography is disguised only by the novelty of giving a big romantic duet to two men. Rob Besser's dry, brusque solo *Breath*, by Meredith Monk, would be eccentric even without the unsettling touch of listing it on the programme as Nancy Colahan in Jane Dudley's more familiar and better solo, *Harmonica Breakdown*. Carol Parker's solo, *Nocturne*, by Martha Clarke, is a mixture of Miss Havisham, *Giselle*, *The Dying Swan* and the Folies Bergere. Is it meant to be funny?

The total effect is a sampler rather than a proper programme: a buffet, not a real meal. Odd to find no modern music and mainly monochrome designs. I cannot see this show sending many people off to see real modern dance companies.

ARTS BRIEF

Suitable choice

BBC 2 will screen the final on Saturday night — high notes, haute couture and all.

Last chance . . .

SCOTTISH Opera's future now looks rosier, thanks to the Scottish Office's £500,000 rescue package and the signing of Richard Armstrong as music director. The company ends its winter season this week at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle (091-232 2061), with *La traviata*, *Billy Budd* and *Figaro*.

THEATRE

Romping rumpus revived



Maidens: Saskia Reeves and Josette Bushell-Mingo

The Virtuoso The Pit

running circles round each other in the hope of ending up in bed with the mate of their choice.

The play opens with one good-looking man alone in bed, dreaming that girls break from the ranks of characters watching from the shadows to swoop affectionately upon him. By the end of the evening all but one of these characters have been paired off, some of them most unsuitably, through a succession of ruses, masquerades and abrupt de-

sents through a trap door. In her directorial debut for the company Phyllida Lloyd creates a romping rumpus of a show. Some of the scenes read prettily dull on the page, but she animates them with unexpected tricks and anachronisms that generally succeed and always supply a moment's pleasure.

Bruce and Longvil, the two young blades (Barry Lynch, Sean Murray), are in pursuit of Clarinda and Miranda (Josette Bushell-Mingo and Saskia Reeves), maidens of such indistinguishable personality that it quickly becomes unimportant to

remember which name belongs to whom.

Lynch and Murray, baritone and tenor respectively, bring a nice gravity and poise to the roles. Lynch's dry delivery of comedy is particularly engaging, especially when he is standing motionless beside the insatiable affected Lady Grimcrack (Linda Marlowe) as she whirls her arms like the sails of a windmill in overdrive. Grimacing with ill-concealed lust, Marlowe is like a splendid Disney villainess left behind on the drawing board as too amazing to fit into any storyline.

Most of the men wear clomping boots and several women wear tatters, for no good reason except to look picturesque. One exception is Sir Formal Triffo, Shadwell's most original creation, whose ornate periods Guy Henry delivers without ever losing his way in the subordinate clauses, and whose pageboy bob and sober suit are evidently taken from the young Henry Irving. With Christopher Benjamin fruitfully brusque as Sir Nicholas and secure acting all down the line, Dryden's smear on Shadwell has been exuberantly wiped clean.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERT

Dramatic encounter by moonlight

CBSO/Rattle Festival Hall

Glen Tetley's version for the old Pierrot Rambert.

Its expressionist theatricality was reinforced here by having Elise Ross match the vocal Sprechgesang with dramatic gesture in a production devised by Sylvano Bussotti, who also designed her Pierrot cloak and costume (made from 100-year-old Italian silk). And very becoming she looked and sounded, moving in and out of a spotlight representing the moonstruck milieu of the poems.

Her voice, with marginally more song than speech in its

delivery, nicely caught the musical inflections and nuances of Schoenberg's tricky setting, making the often awkward contours serve a poetic and not just virtuous purpose. Rattle's conducting set this off against the sharply etched and carefully balanced instrumental texture of the orchestra's Contemporary Music Group, in which the pianist, not named with the others in the programme, looked surprisingly like Emanuel Ax.

He it was who appeared in more formal dress to deliver with magisterial technique the bold chordal effects, wide and angular solo writing and rapid fingerwork of Prokofiev's First Piano Concerto. Energetic

momentum and percussive vigour were combined with a touch of reflective lyricism, ensuring that the composer's youthful exuberance also had substance of musical character.

Rattle's enthusiasm for his saga of a century's music was even more clearly apparent in the rhythmic fluency and shimmering textures of Debussy's *Images*. It was only questionable that he should put the three-part "Iberia" movement at the end instead of as the centrepiece of the triptych, where it achieves a more satisfying balance of musical content.

NOEL GOODWIN

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ORTHOPAEDIC & MEDIBEDS

If you go down to the woods ...

IF Mikhail Baryshnikov wants us to believe that his present venture is seriously concerned with bringing new audiences to a variety of modern choreographers, it would help to announce programmes in advance so that people paying unusually high prices could choose which works they wanted to see. Might it not have been obvious, also, when the opening-night bill (chosen only the day before) turned out to be different from the printed list, to have told the audience about the change?

But why pretend? We all know that most of the audience wanted only to see the star. They got plenty of him, appearing in five of the eight works given. This was real rag-bag of a programme, mainly short bits and pieces, but it did contain two works of real choreographic interest.

One of these was *Martha*

by Lar Lubovitch admirably:

the banality of the choreography is disguised only by the novelty of giving a big romantic

duet to two men.

Rob Besser's dry, brusque solo

Breath, by Meredith Monk,

would be eccentric even without

the unsettling touch of listing it on the programme as

Nancy Colahan in Jane

Dudley's more familiar and better

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chrome designs. I cannot see

this show sending many

people off to see real mod-

ern dance companies.

JOHN PERCIVAL

H. Ross Perot, a powerful Texan, is a short step away from trying for the White House, Jamie Dettmer reports

Lone star to save the US?



Richly ambitious: the plain-speaking H. Ross Perot in front of a family portrait in his office. His supporters consider him a crusader, and his enemies claim that he is a bully

Confusion is said to have clouded the face of a high-ranking Chinese politician on a visit to Dallas a few years ago when the Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot handed him as a gift a copy of one of his favourite books, the *American Scout's Manual*. After intense discussion, the Chinese delegation concluded that this must be the American equivalent of the *Little Red Book*. If Mr Perot had his way, it would be.

Come this autumn, the simple exhortations to pursue a truthful, clean-living life contained in the scout's handbook could well form part of the philosophy behind one of the most extraordinary campaigns for the presidency in American history.

In a few months, Americans may be confronted with the vision of Mr Perot, a short man with US marine-style closely cropped hair, urging them in his high-pitched, folksy east-Texan twang to break with politics-as-usual and vote for him as president.

H. Ross Perot (the H stands for Henry, known by his admirers as the Dallas crusader, and by his enemies as a bully and a loudmouth, is

eager to mount an independent challenge for the White House. He has threatened to do so before. But since February, when he proclaimed that America was "in deep doodoo", and announced on a radio chat show his readiness to run, "if the American people ask me", Mr Perot has been fanning the flames of a candidacy which could set American politics alight.

Texans are used to Mr Perot's political ambitions. Since selling for \$2.5 billion (£1.7 billion) in 1984 a computer data firm he started 22 years earlier with \$1,000, Mr Perot has backed various Texan gubernatorial and congressional campaigns. He is also used to him keeping his word. In 1979, he delighted the lone star state and the rest of America by organising a daring do-commando raid to rescue two of his employees held hostage in a Tehran jail, an audacious escape that thriller writer Ken Follett's described in his book *On Wings of Eagles*, and secured for Mr Perot the image of man of action.

Mr Perot's first wildly improbable adventure occurred in 1969, when he responded to Henry Kissinger's worries

They are like the marine corps, one writer remarked. 'Heck, they are the marine corps'

about the condition of American POWs in North Vietnam. Mr Perot hired two B-52 jets and tried to airlift into North Vietnam 30 tonnes of supplies. Hanoi rebuffed him.

Since then, Mr Perot's links with the Pentagon have been strong. He is known to have helped the American government on a variety of highly classified missions. His name was linked to the Iran-Contra affair. It was during his involvement with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that he was said by friends to have formed a dislike for George Bush, a former CIA director. The differences between the two men are believed to have centred on the CIA's use of drugs trafficking.

Other rich men in America have dreamt of riding to the nation's rescue and grabbing the presidency; their ambitions have generally been dismissed. No third party or independent candidate has ever been elected to the White House. Theodore Roosevelt came closest when he attracted 27 per cent of the vote when he challenged Woodrow Wilson in 1912 as candidate for the Progressive party.

What distinguishes Mr Perot's threat is the sheer scale of his wealth (*Forbes* magazine ranks his personal fortune as the 21st largest in the United States); the determination he shows in pursuing his goals; and a track record in business that has been one of the great American rags-to-riches success stories. "He is the most single-minded man on the face of the earth," says Peter

Eikind, the editor of the weekly *Dallas Observer*.

In go-getting Texas, a state littered with the powerful, the wealthy, and the ambitious, Mr Perot, despite being only 5ft 6inches tall, stands out.

Born in 1930 in the small Texas-Arkansas border town of Texarkana, to a less than affluent cotton-brokering, horse-trading father, Mr Perot learnt early that to succeed you had to work. Above his bed, his mother tacked a Norman Rockwell print depicting a boy scout at prayer. Nowadays, Rockwell originals adorn his corporate suite.

Mr Perot's first business

success came as a teenager when he ran a newspaper round in a ghetto of Texarkana that no other paper boy would go near. At 19, he went to Annapolis Naval Academy.

After several years as a midshipman, he joined IBM as a salesman in Dallas to try to make money to support a young wife and start a family.

He was filling his yearly sales quota by the end of January that year.

In 1962, he set out on a road that would make his fortune. With \$1,000 he launched Electronic Data Systems (EDS), and through the years he managed to pick up several lucrative federal and state health care contracts. A magazine described him as "the first welfare billionaire".

He employed large numbers of Vietnam veterans and ran EDS as a cross between a religious sect and boot camp.

It is the most single-minded man on the face of the earth," says Peter

Male employees were not allowed to have beards or moustaches and they had to wear white shirts and single-colour ties. "They are like the marine corps," one writer who studied EDS remarked. "Heck, they are the marine corps."

Mr Perot stamped his authority on the company in the same way the critics accuse him of behaving in any venture in which he is involved. On the record, prominent Texan politicians have only praise for Mr Perot. Off the record, they spit out bile. "He's too short and too rich," one commented. Another said: "There is only one way of doing business with him, and that's on his terms, or not at all. Him in the White House? God, that would worry me."

Few think Mr Perot would make it to the White House. Even so, support appears to be growing. A *Los Angeles Times* opinion poll, conducted last week, showed that 21 per cent of Americans would vote for Mr Perot. His appeal, in some ways, is similar to Jerry Brown's. They both appear as outsiders to an America that is fed up with Washington, politics and, above all, politicians.

He has said he will run if his supporters get his name on the ballot in all 50 states. Last week, to further that aim, Mr Perot announced an interim running mate, Vice-Admiral James Stockdale, the Vietnam war hero.

A steady stream of television appearances has kept the Perot candidacy alive. He has taken a leaf out of Jerry Brown's book and installed a toll-free number and 100 telephone lines in his offices in North Dallas, and pre-recording lines in Florida. So far more than a million calls have been received urging Mr Perot to run. After one television appearance, when he said, "In

there is no public hint of any Clinton-like scandal lurking in Mr Perot's background.

He is a strong family man, said to be close to all of his four children. All have worked for him, as has his sister, Betty, who is involved in Mr Perot's charity work in Texas.

In a recent issue of the *National Review*, the influential conservative weekly, Ed Rollins, Ronald Reagan's 1984 campaign manager, issued a call to presidential and congressional candidates that the allegiance of American voters is up for grabs. "A tidal wave is about to sweep across America's political landscape. Outsiders can ride it straight into the corridors of power; insiders who resist will find themselves beached, far from Washington."

Mr Perot hopes he can ride the wave.

plain Texas talk, it's time to take out the trash and clean out the barn", the telephone system in North Dallas was "gridlocked".

The prospect of Mr Perot running for president is unnerving Republican campaign managers, who seem worried that disgruntled conservatives might vote for him and spoil George Bush's chances. They are particularly concerned that Mr Perot could secure Texas and Florida in a contest. Equally, some Democratic managers are cautioning their colleagues that a Perot candidacy might hurt the chances of their nominee.

Mr Perot is difficult to classify along right-wing/left-wing lines. He is pro-choice on abortion and for gun control. He wants more discipline in schools and stiffer anti-drug laws. He supported the Vietnam war, but opposed Desert Storm. He prides himself on being a patriot. He wants to see social security for the wealthiest Americans cut.

There is no public hint of any Clinton-like scandal lurking in Mr Perot's background. He is a strong family man, said to be close to all of his four children. All have worked for him, as has his sister, Betty, who is involved in Mr Perot's charity work in Texas.

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Mr Perot hopes he can ride the wave.

Hooked on a classic

Peter Pan, in *Hook*, will once again help Great Ormond Street Hospital

A five-minute documentary, narrated by children, is likely to steal the show at tomorrow night's West End premiere of Steven Spielberg's multi-million dollar epic *Hook*.

The mini-documentary weaves its own brand of enchantment with a look at the history of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and its enduring links with the story of Peter Pan and its creator, Sir James Barrie.

When he died in 1937, Sir James bequeathed all the royalties from any plays, films or books based on his children's classic to the hospital. When the book came out of copyright in 1987, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, whose wife was chairman of the hospital's board of special trustees, persuaded the House of Lords to amend the Copyright Bill so that royalties from Peter Pan would continue to go to the hospital for ever.

The documentary was the brainchild of Michael Samuelson, the film lighting millionaire, whose son, Jamie, then aged eight, died at Great Ormond Street of aplastic anaemia in 1970.

Mr Samuelson, who is the hospital's appeals trustee and co-chairman of the organising committee of *Hook*, hopes that his film will inspire others to follow Barrie's example.

Five weeks ago he approached Tony Kaye Films, which specialises in making television commercials. Mr Samuelson, whose daughter Emma Samms is a soap opera actress in Hollywood, chose Tony Kaye "because they make very emotional commercials and I wanted this to be emotional". They, and everyone else involved — about 100 people in all — gave their services for nothing.

"People have been amazingly generous," Patricia Murphy, the documentary's director, says. A veteran commercial maker, she is more accustomed to making films about soap powders and hair shampoos. She advertised in the press and on the radio for anyone of any age who had ever been treated at Great Ormond Street, and was inundated with replies. They ranged from a 93-year-old woman who had an operation to remove a growth in 1906, to the mother of an eight-month-old boy who is undergoing treatment for a club foot, and included a former Great Ormond Street nurse, Wendy Tonkinson, 86, whose parents named her after seeing the first stage *Peter Pan* in 1904.

Miss Murphy ended up with 80,000 feet of film, which included archive footage and stills of some of the earliest *Peter Pans*, such as Pauline Chase and Frances Day.

"It should have taken six months to make, but we did it in four weeks," says Miss Murphy, who is making a longer version for television.

Among the 19,000-strong audience at the Odeon, Leicester Square, will be the Princess of Wales, who is the hospital's current patron, following a royal precedent set by Queen Victoria, and the stars, Dustin Hoffman, Bob Hoskins and Robin Williams. The proceeds of the premiere, expected to be around £200,000, will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

SALLY BROMPTON



Good medicine: Dustin Hoffman and Robin Williams

WOMEN'S WAR



Julia Neuberger on reports from the feminist battlefield by Marilyn French and Susan Faludi. This Friday in The TES.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
EVERY FRIDAY 75p

Special K is not a new brand of breakfast cereal, but a powerful drug whose use by teenagers is causing concern

Altered states of youth

In our o'clock in the morning and the shell-suit generation is still dancing at the late-night raves. Dressed in regulation SPX trainers and baseball caps, they sway trance-like to mixes with heart-stopping BPMs (beats per minute), many high on an exotic cocktail of Ecstasy (E) and amphetamines and now, it seems, a new drug: "Special K".

The club scene has come far since the emergence of acid house in 1988. First there was cannabis, then acid, then tabs of Ecstasy, the "hug-drug". Teenaged dabbers are constantly looking for something new to keep them going throughout the night. But they no longer know what they are taking.

Pure Ecstasy is now a rarity, while new hybrid drugs — cocktails of Ecstasy, LSD and amphetamines — have become common. The drug-taking is like the music that accompanies it: synthetic, ultra-modern and untested. "Special K" is the latest in a long line. It started being used surreptitiously as a substitute for Ecstasy by dealers because it was cheaper. Now it has attained a status of its own. Because Special K has only been used for a couple of months it is not even illegal, and it can be bought from dealers, usually as tablets at £10 to £15 each, and swallowed or crushed for sniffing.

Mike, aged 15, goes to the Astoria disco in West London whenever he can afford to, and has tried most concoctions offered to him by dealers.

"I don't get any buzz from E any more, and I do worry about its side effects. The papers say it can give you heat-stroke and heart failure. Special K is mellow. You feel weightless, your body is filled with light. Sometimes I am miles apart above the dancefloor. Sometimes I just want to cry."

Martin, aged 19, had not heard of Special K until last week. "It's far stronger than anything I've taken before. Unbelievable things happen, but you can't judge from your previous experiences what your next one will be like, and it is quite scary," he says. These were teenagers who had contacted drug dependency units in London and only then realised what they were taking.

Special K is made from Ketamine Hydro-Chloride, an anaesthetic drug used in veterinary practices, in hospitals in cases of emergency and as a "buddy drug" for soldiers to administer to each other in times of war.

Dr Mel Morgan, a consultant anaesthetist at Hammersmith Hospital, in London, uses it for certain operations. "The drug is different to other anaesthetic agents. It separates the mind from the body, rather than sending people to sleep. It is also a very, very powerful painkiller, good for painful procedures and in emergencies such as the Moorgate Tube

disaster, when people need to be operated on immediately," he says.

According to Dr Morgan, the problems start in recovery. "When you start to emerge you have no sense of body image, you can feel totally disorientated, and you can have hallucinations, so in normal situations we prefer using other anaesthetics. The effects can be amplified by external stimuli, so if Ketamine is

used, the patient must recover in a quiet, dark room, otherwise it could be very frightening. I can't believe anyone would want to use it amid the noise and flashing lights of a dancefloor."

Dr Tony Dickenson, a senior lecturer in pharmacology at University College London, knows it is being used. He first became worried when his students spoke to him a couple of months ago about friends who were abusing Ketamine. "Chemically,

Ketamine's structure is close to Angel Dust or phencyclidine, which was popular in America ten years ago, and caused aggressive and violent behaviour and even brain damage in some heavy users," he says. Under medical supervision, Dr Dickenson says, the drug is safe. Patients do not seem to suffer withdrawal symptoms.

"On the street we have no idea how much they are taking, but it is enough for them to be having visual disturbances, deep trances and temporary loss of limb control," Dr Dickenson says. "They could easily have an accident under its influence. We also know nothing about its long-term effects."

Both doctors are sure that the drug is not being stolen from hospitals and veterinary practices. "This drug is as easy to manufacture as Ecstasy. Someone with a good working knowledge of chemistry could make it in any backstreet laboratory," Dr Dickenson says.

Drug dependency clinics as far apart as Plymouth and Liverpool have begun to hear of cases of abuse of the drug. It seems to be sold predominantly in London and Manchester, though no one has any idea of its prevalence.

Ian Wardle, the manager of Life-line, the Manchester drug agency,

was the first person to raise the alarm. "There are always reports of new mix-and-match drugs which we register. But Special K is the only new drug that seems to have taken off," he says. "We have had people ringing up, concerned by the bizarre effects of the drug. They want to know why it doesn't give the same sense of empathy and collectiveness that they get from Ecstasy. They know now they are taking something different, and some of them really seem to like the new effects."

"Most of the agency's queries are from people aged between ten and 20. Mr Wardle is worried about the side-effects because it is seen to give users the sort of withdrawal that is characteristic of heroin and LSD. "We don't know how dangerous it is yet, but it could be as bad for you as Ecstasy or worse," he says.

Ketamine is not a controlled substance under the Home Office's Misuse of Drugs Act, although Ecstasy is in category A, as is heroin. A spokesman says they are monitoring the situation, but Mr Wardle thinks that banning it will have little effect.

"The illegality of Ecstasy has had no effect on its popularity," he says. "We desperately need to educate young people and parents about side-effects of drugs, so at least they know what they are taking and are aware of the dangers."

Alice Thomson

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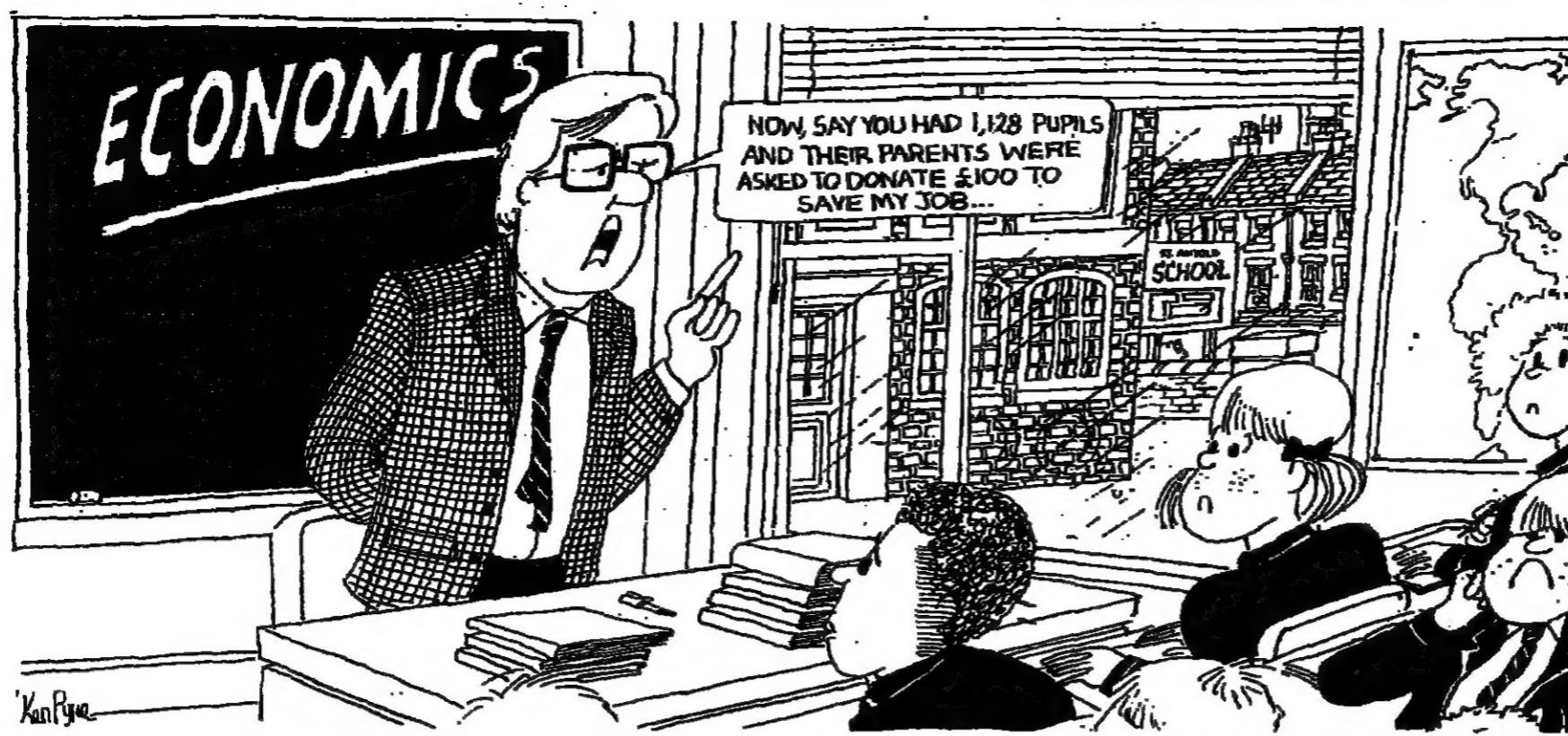
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EDUCATION TIMES



Cuts loom as budgets bounce

Disquiet is growing over funding for state schools. And the problems will not be easily solved, John O'Leary reports

Whichever party takes power this week, the education secretary will face a growing clamour over the funding of state schools. Governors throughout England and Wales are drawing up budgets, which are unlikely to alter substantially because of electoral spending pledges.

The spectre of teacher redundancies has been raised annually by the teaching unions and local authorities trying to talk up the share of public spending devoted to education. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, anticipated a repeat even as he announced the teachers' pay award, dismissing the claims as "annual ritual nonsense".

This year, however, there is more substance than usual in the scare stories. The local authorities may be exaggerating when they forecast the loss of 12,000 teaching posts, but there is no doubt that financial pressures are forcing governors to cut posts at a time when most would prefer to increase staffing levels to accommodate the national curriculum.

A survey of a dozen authorities in the *Times Educational Supplement* this week showed that 1,000 teaching and ancillary jobs were threatened. The sample included several of the authorities that have found most difficulty in balancing their budgets, but their experience is by no means unusual.

In Essex, which did not feature in

the survey, secondary heads met last Friday to protest at likely budget cuts averaging £20,000 a school.

Three sixth-form colleges found that they were losing £531,000 because the county decided that it could not afford full funding for the extra numbers staying on in education beyond 16.

David Kelly, the principal of Palmers College, in Grays, says: "We have lost £172,000, so I have almost cleaned out our contingency reserve and cut maintenance. And there will be larger classes. We are in an area that has not had a great tradition of further and higher education, but we have doubled participation over the last four years, and now we are being penalised for it."

There have been teachers' strikes in Staffordshire, where cuts of £7 million have been demanded, and in Brent, north London, where 18 teachers have been notified of redundancy. This month's teacher union conferences will hear calls for more concerted action.

Parents' organisations have also begun to express concern. The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations said last week that it had received six reports in a fortnight of schools asking for

parental contributions to maintain staffing levels.

Today parents from a dozen authorities will give similar accounts at a news conference organised by the Campaign for State Education. Among them will be a group from St Paul's School, in Dorking, Surrey, where parents were asked for £100 a child to

£100,000. The irony of the present situation is that it comes at a time when recurrent spending on education is rising, in real terms and as a proportion of national wealth. Mr Clarke claimed last week that more was being spent on education than in Japan or Germany.

Why, then, should the crunch be coming this year? The three main factors seem to be controls on local government spending, the size of the teachers' pay award and the spread of local management of schools.

Though some authorities, such as Essex, are not spending as much as the government allows for education and are in no immediate danger of having their expenditure capped, many of those in deepest trouble have little room for manoeuvre. Some, such as Warwickshire, are implementing deep cuts even after exceeding government limits. The election will determine whether spending limits are raised.

At the root of many schools' problems lies teachers' pay. Not only did the £60 million extra provided by the government fail to meet the full cost of the 7.8 per cent increase in pay for the coming year, but no allowance was made for the staging of last year's rises. The authorities estimate the second

phase of the 1991-2 settlement has added 2 per cent to next year's pay bill.

Governors' control of their own budgets has not only ensured that the full effects of funding shortfalls are more widely acknowledged, it has also accentuated the impact on particular schools. Local management was always intended to benefit popular schools at the expense of others, and formula funding means that those failing to attract enough pupils face financial problems. No longer can an authority protect schools in difficulty by providing them with extra pupils.

The other main factor is the recession, which has had a marked effect on the mobility of teachers. Previously, governors in most parts of the country could expect to lose a number of staff each year, allowing them to shed posts, rather than sack people, if the books failed to balance.

Official statistics show that some of the local authorities' previous estimates of job losses have been more accurate than ministers admit, but redundancies have not been necessary to achieve the necessary savings.

Now that teachers are tending to stay put, cuts are more likely to require redundancies. Teachers' pay accounts for 80 per cent of school spending, and governors have nowhere else to turn to satisfy the legal requirement to produce a balanced budget.

Time to act on schools drama

A REPORT to be presented by the Arts Council at the National Theatre tomorrow will intensify the debate about whether drama should be a foundation subject in the national curriculum.

Art, music and physical education are about to become statutory subjects, but drama muddles on as a teaching method under the wing of English and a handful of other subjects.

The National Curriculum Council was to issue its guidance on drama last year, but the project was mysteriously dropped. The Arts Council stepped in by forming a working party to bring out guidelines of its own.

The working party has tried to cut through much of the theory and jargon that threatens to strangle the subject. "Drama in Schools" identifies three fundamental activities: making, performing and responding. Pupils might, for example, explore an idea through improvisation and articulate it in dramatic form.

Although there is no statutory requirement to follow them, the targets and the recommended study programmes give the most practical advice yet on how to structure a well-rounded programme of drama teaching for the national curriculum.

Without the stamp of the NCDC, "Drama in Schools" has, however, no more authority than the good name of Arts Council expertise. It is merely guidance, which means that though the quality of drama teaching may be improved, the quantity, especially in primary schools, is left to the discretion of head teachers.

It is fair to expect teachers to take on yet more attainment targets? I suggest it is if it helps them to make more effective use of the little time they have for drama.

However, even if enough time and resources were found for drama, many teachers still lack the confidence to teach it well. One likely effect of the report will be a big demand for in-service training.

But as education authorities

cut their budgets, in-service training in drama becomes less affordable.

Increasingly, the theatre profession is finding itself a main provider. Both the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre have extensive education programmes for pupils and teachers, although their courses are oversubscribed.

Most schools have little contact with the theatre profession and that is one deficiency the report tries to remedy. It explains how schools can get help from theatres while the council itself is putting greater pressure on its clients to reach out to schools.

The underlying message of "Drama in Schools" is that drama should be regarded as a foundation subject. Undeniably, the subject has a future. Drama is highly popular at secondary level, where the number of pupils taking GCSE drama far exceeds those for music. Drama courses have proliferated in sixth-form colleges of further education and universities.

Despite the subject's popularity, there seems little likelihood that its status will be raised in the near future. The education secretary has indicated no intention of considering it as a foundation subject. A Labour government would only marginally more sympathetic, setting up a review of the national curriculum to elicit teachers' views on what should be taught.

The theatre profession now needs to swing its weight behind the cause. Otherwise, drama will remain squeezed among the stronger subjects. In the meantime, "Drama in Schools" does at least give teachers the immediate means to steer it towards clearer policies and more focused teachers.

The author teaches drama at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is a member of the Arts Council working party.

• "Drama in Schools" is available from local education authorities or from the Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ (071-333 0100).

VIEWPOINT

Kenneth Rea



Funding shortages also mean cutbacks for a unique form of help

Hospitals close their doors to special needs teaching

Until last October, Mark Trembling, a 10-year-old with learning difficulties, was getting free weekly specialist teaching at a London hospital. Now his parents, part-time workers, may have to spend up to £25 a session for the help he needs to avoid being thrown on the educational scrap heap. He is one of nearly 200 children who have had their special teaching cut in London in the last 12 months.

Early last year, six hospitals in London had units for children with learning difficulties. Now all their teaching has been cut and most units are barely surviving. In the past few weeks, 109 children who were getting free tuition at the Bloomfield unit, at Guy's Hospital, have been told that they must either leave or pay.

At a time when concern at falling education standards is high, five centres with highly trained and experienced staff are being allowed to vanish or are being privatised, not because of any carefully devised plan but because of cuts market forces and administrative convenience. Part of the problem is that the units fall between two administrative stools. Whether closure of the centres is in the best interest of the children has never been asked.

Despite the medical aspect, the 1981 Education Act that deals with special needs made them the responsibility of education departments, and several of the closures followed withdrawal of funds by the local education authority.

Alan Wood, the head of special needs at Southwark education authority, which has stopped funding the Bloomfield unit, said that because most users were not from Southwark, the expense of trying to recoup the cost of the service was prohibitive.

In any case, he said, the service provided by the unit could be covered by mainstream schools. "And," he added, "we had to reduce our budget."

There is, however, yet another factor, which the education authorities tend not to spell out: that the hospitals can



Tom Formikel, a teacher at the Bloomfield unit of Guy's Hospital, in south London, with Steven Miles, aged 10

act as an alternative source of expertise.

If parents are having difficulty with the school or believe their child's case is not being taken seriously," said Helen Redwood of the Charing Cross unit (now back by Fulham and Hammersmith), "they can

come to us for an assessment." Education authorities are publicly funded, so they tend to take the advice of hospitals more seriously than they take reports from psychologists working privately, who are often considered to be touting for business.

What happens to the children who have lost their extra teaching at the hospitals? A few, such as Mark Trembling, may get private tuition, which their parents can ill afford.

In theory, they all remain the responsibility of the education authority. But in the case of at least one closure, involving 50 children being taught at St Bartholomew's,

their obligations." He also said his department could act as a court of appeal if parents were not satisfied with the local authority. But are local schools the best places for children with special needs, and can the education authorities effectively replace the hospitals? The short answer is that nobody really knows.

There is a debate as to whether hospitals are the best place to teach these children," said Nick Hunt of the River-side Health Authority, which was responsible for the recent-

closure of the unit. "The LEAs have submitted policies on special needs, we will have a clearer picture of the way the different areas are coping."

Until then, Mark Trembling and the other children face an uncertain future.

JEROME BURNE
Additional research by Charlotte Vesey

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Excluding prosecution evidence

Regina v King's Lynn Justices, Ex parte Holland
Before Lord Justice Belldam and Mr Justice Tudor Evans
Judgment April 11

It was only in the clearest case and in exceptional circumstances that magistrates, sitting as examining justices and determining whether to commit an accused for trial on indictment, should exercise their discretion under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to exclude evidence tendered by the prosecution.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in a reserved judgment dismissing the application of Reuben Charles Holland for *citeriorari* to quash the justices' decision on May 24, 1990, committing him to stand trial at the crown court for offences including burglary and deception.

Mr Michael M. Wood for the applicant: Mr Richard Daniel for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BELLDAM said that the justices had concluded that the criminal proceedings did not amount to the words "in any proceedings" in section 78; had they been referred to R v Oxford City Justices, Ex parte Berry [1988] QB 507 they would have concluded otherwise.

Further, it was clear from Part VIII of the 1984 Act that the word

"proceedings", defined in section 82, meant any criminal proceedings.

In deciding the nature and scope of their discretion to refuse to allow evidence to be given the justices had to have regard to all the circumstances, including the circumstances in which the evidence was obtained, and to weigh the effect of its admission by them on the fairness of the proceedings as a whole paying due regard to the probative value of the evidence and any prejudice to the accused.

R v Queen [The Times March 31, 1990] [1990] Crim LR 581.

At common law, justices had no discretion to admit or refuse to admit evidence before trial, the prosecutor could apply for a voluntary bill of indictment or, if they committed the accused on some charges only, could seek to include in the indictment the charge or charges on which the justices decided to commit.

Justices would not be able to decide whether the admission of disputed evidence at the committal stage would have such an adverse effect on the fairness of proceedings as a whole until they had heard all the evidence.

A most relevant circumstance was that the accused could invite the judge at the crown court to exclude the evidence which, for the exercise of the discretion, was admitted evidence.

Examining justices could exclude the evidence from their consideration only if satisfied that

issues to be tried by the jury were clarified by the indictment and where any dispute of fact concerning the evidence could be resolved in their absence.

Moreover, if apart from the disputed evidence the justices would be bound to commit for trial, their refusal to admit the disputed evidence would be of no moment because the prosecutor could give notice of his intention to rely at trial on it in addition to the other evidence. The question whether to admit the evidence would then have to be considered over again at the crown court.

If justices refused to admit the evidence and declined to commit the accused for trial, the prosecutor could apply for a voluntary bill of indictment or, if they committed the accused on some charges only, could seek to include in the indictment the charge or charges on which the justices decided to commit.

Even in a case in which without the disputed evidence the justices would have to discharge the accused, the question whether the evidence was sufficient to justify the continuation of the accused for trial had to depend on the likelihood of the crown court judge refusing to allow the evidence to be given at trial.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans agreed that the accused could invite the judge at the crown court to exclude the evidence when the

admission of disputed evidence.

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Examining justices could exclude the evidence from their consideration only if satisfied that

its admission at the trial would be so obviously unfair to the proceedings that no judge properly directing himself could admit it.

His Lordship said that the present was not such a case and there was no doubt that even in such a case it would generally be far better to leave the decision to the trial judge to assess the effect on the fairness of the proceedings; also he had greater experience of deciding such questions.

Although the justices in the present case were misled into holding that section 78 did not apply to committal proceedings, their decision to commit the accused for trial would have been the same had they held the section.

The submission should not have been made to them before any evidence had been given when the question was purely academic and they had no knowledge then of any of the circumstances under which those circumstances were known and the question for decision could be properly judged.

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Examining justices could exclude the evidence from their consideration only if satisfied that

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Ketowoglo

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith
Judgment January 30

There was a duty upon an applicant for leave to move for judicial review to make full and frank disclosure of all relevant matters.

The court would not readily excuse conduct which is a relevant matter nor would it permit the applicant to disclaim responsibility for what had been done in his name and on his behalf by his representatives.

The Court of Appeal held when dismissing the application of Mr Kodjagou Ketowoglo, a citizen of Togo, for leave to apply for judicial review of notice given to him on July 6, 1991 that he was an illegal entrant and was therefore to be detained and removed from this country.

Mr Owen Davies, who did not appear before, for Mr Ketowoglo; Mr David Pannick for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that Mr Ketowoglo was a chef who in 1981 had been granted a visa to exempt him from the provisions of United Kingdom immigration control while he was employed in a diplomatic mission and was therefore to remain exempt from immigration control.

On October 15, 1991 Mr Deva

Keynes ex parte to Mr Justice Kennedy on behalf of the applicant for leave to apply for judicial review. Leave was granted upon the belief that leave to enter the United Kingdom had been granted to Mr Ketowoglo as a person then exempt from immigration control.

On November 28, 1991 Mr Ketowoglo

applied for leave to enter the United Kingdom immigration control while he was employed in a diplomatic mission and was therefore to remain exempt from immigration control.

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Crème de la Crème
every Monday Wednesday Thursday
071 481 4481

THE TIMES

PERSONAL COLUMN

ESTABLISHED 1785

Property Buyers Guide
every Wednesday and Saturday
071 481 1986

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The National Health Umbrella
Is simple for me now!
Will shelter those it can't protect.
Please will you hear our calls?

THE MACMILLAN
NURSE APPEAL

FIGHTING CANCER
WITH MORE THAN MEDICINE
Would you like to leave a legacy to
Cancer Research UK? Your legacy will help us
to give people with cancer the
best chance of survival. Please contact us
about our Macmillan Nurse
Appeal or for a copy of our
especially produced leaflet.

"Leave a Legacy of Hope"
Booklet available from:
Cancer Research UK, 61 New Cavendish Street,
London W1 1RL. Tel: 081 580 5000

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John Grooms Association for Disabled People

Dept 17, 10 Gloucester Drive, Finchley Park, London N4 2LP

Why the Samaritans are
the last people you should
think of giving money to.

The Samaritans offer a sympathetic ear to thousands
of desperate and suicidal people each week.

By remembering us in your will, you could help us
continue our work of care and understanding, 24
hours a day, 365 days a year.

Your donation will keep this vital service going. So
please, as a last thought, think of the Samaritans first.

Write to Simon Armon,

The Samaritans, Room B, 17
Uxbridge Road, Slough SL1 1SN

for further details.

The Samaritans

MAKE A LOT OF CHILDREN HAPPY.
MAKE A WILL.

The National Children's Bureau is creating and
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benefiting children all over the country.

But such important work needs
money.

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you can help us do so much more.

Contact Karen England on 071
278 9441 for information.

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BATTLE HONOURS

• BRUNEVILLE
• OUDNA
• TAMERA
• PRIMOSOLE
• BRIDGE
• NORMANDY
• LANDINGS
• BREVILLE
• SOUTHERN
FRANCE
• ARNHEM
• ATHENS
• RHINE
• FALKLAND
ISLANDS

THE WEEK'S
GOOD CAUSE -
TOMORROW
8.50am RADIO 4

THE AIRBORNE
FORCES
GOLDEN JUBILEE
APPEAL

REACHING BARBECUE, ALDERMaston,
HANTS GU11 3BL REGISTERED CHARITY 200342

Will Power
to lift the shadow
of diabetes

and the link with

■ Kidney disease

■ Shortened life
span

■ Heart disease

■ Amputations

■ Blindness

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION
10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 8BU
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 21599

THE SHADOW
OF DIABETES

All these are closely connected
with Diabetes. As the leading
contribution to research we
must find the cure for this
still incurable disease.

Your legacy will be
a lasting reminder of
your will to help us
defeat diabetes

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BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (92544) 6.20 BBC Breakfast News (21771419)
9.05 Election Call, Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, answers questions from viewers and listeners. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1361457)

10.00 News, regional news and weather (4708877) 10.05 Playdays (r) (5869419) 10.25 The Family News (r) (4701964) 10.35 Gibberish. Word game for two teams of celebrities. The question-master is Kenny Everett (7936311)

11.00 News, regional news and weather (3053506) 11.05 Rosemary Conley. Advice on good health. Plus Susan de Vere assessing the worth of low-calorie, pre-packed meals (980506) 11.30 People Today presented by Minnam Stoppard and Adrian Mills. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (8676457)

12.20 Pebble Milt. A motown music special features performances by the Four Tops, the Supremes and the Temptations (s) (8604167) 12.55 Regional News and weather (13601341)

1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (15322)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (6428525) 1.50 Turnabout. Rob Curting with another round of the word power quiz (6289341)

2.15 Knots Landing. California-based drama serial (9623051) 3.00 The Odd Couple. Comedy series about two mismatched apartment-sharers (1435896)

3.25 Bazaar. Domestic hints magazine (1447631)

3.50 Dodger and Badger. First of a 12-part children's comedy (r) (6659849) 4.05 Gravedale High. Cartoon series (r) (1856768) 4.30 Patrik Pacارد. Episode one of a 12-part industrial espionage serial starring Hendrik Marz. (Ceefax) (8226983)

4.55 Newround (3251419) 5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (8457273) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (685254) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster

6.00 News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (693) 6.30 National News Magazines (273). Northern Ireland: Neighbours; Wales (6 50) Party Election Broadcast (Plaid Cymru)

7.00 Wogan. Guests include Professor Stephen Hawking (s) (6761)

7.30 Watchdog. Includes a report on how most glass furniture sold in the country continues to flout British safety standards (457)



Hosting a trip down memory lane: Phillip Schofield (8.00pm)

8.00 Television's Greatest Hits.
CHOICE: Tapping the vein of small screen nostalgia which has been variously exploited by *Telly Addicts* and Channel 4's *TV Heaven*, this new series is a mix of television moments, news clips and personality interviews pegged to a year between 1962 and 1987. The choice of Phillip Schofield as host seems a clear bid for the younger audience who otherwise might be put off such a trip down memory lane, and the content is aimed squarely at that popular market. Tonight's year is 1970. Among the less-than-momentous events covered are Ronnie Corbett's appearance on *ITV's Your Life*. Dan, winning the Soap Contest and Americans heckling Billie Jean King. Michael Jackson, Linda Ronstadt and the astronauts who was nearly lost with his Apollo 13 spacecraft, seems almost to have strayed from another show. (Ceefax) (s) (2709)

8.30 Man's Best Friend. The second of three documentaries in which Desmond Morris explores how domestic animals are creatures of the wild at heart (r). (Ceefax) (6544)

9.00 News and Campaign Report with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Weather (167167)

9.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour party (701693)

10.00 Panorama. The prime minister is interviewed live by David Dimbleby (704273)

10.40 Cagney and Lacey. The New York policewomen investigate the murder of a Cambodian lawyer and discover that it could have been racially motivated (r). (Ceefax) (C36457)

11.30 The Victorian Kitchen Garden. A walled garden is restored to how it was a century ago (r). (Ceefax) (80148)

12.00 Advice Shop. A special report on discrimination against the Irish in this country (261303)

12.20am On the Hustings. The day's main election speeches (4905571)

12.50 Weather (4984533)

BBC2

6.45 Open University: the English Landscape Garden (7276631). Ends at 7.10

8.00 Breakfast News (6137525)

8.15 Holiday Outings. Anne Gregg takes a week-long painting course in Provence (r) (6127148) 8.30 Boating Butler. Tony Butler concludes his trip along the rivers and canals of the Midlands (r) (30070)

9.00 Film: Design for Scandal (1941, b/w) starring Rosalind Russell and Walter Pidgeon. Comedy about a reporter assigned to discredit the female judge who awarded his editor's wife a heavy divorce settlement. Directed by Norman Taurog (3105029)

10.20 Film: Mannequin (1937, b/w) starring Joan Crawford and Spencer Tracy. Drama about a woman who escapes from a loveless marriage and makes good, only for the man to re-enter her life — this time as a blackmailer. Directed by Frank Borzage (1538964)

11.50 Stage Struck. Five aspiring thespians take a drama course (r). (Ceefax) (755224) 12.30 Among the Wild Chimpanzees. The work of Jane Goodall in east Africa (r) (7088728) 12.45 Fingermouse. Animation (r) (83094506) 1.35 In the Post. Specialist thief (r) (12241803)

2.00 News and weather (30200896) followed by Grand Prix. Brazilian highlights (r) (4952148)

3.00 News and weather (9326821) followed by Village Praise from the Sherwood Forest area (r). (Ceefax) (s) (9761525)

3.40 Glynn Christian's Serendipity. The chef and restaurateur samples tropical fruits in Sri Lanka (r) (2572709) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (2561693)

4.00 Film: The Great Gatsby (1949, b/w) starring Alan Ladd and Betty Field. F. Scott Fitzgerald's tale of lavish living and private passion in the United States during the "Roaring '20s". Directed by Elliott Nugent (85612)

5.30 Film 92 with Barry Norman. Includes a review of the Oscar awards (r) (s) (322). Wales: Bitten by the Bug 5.45 Experiment! 5.55 Party Election Broadcast (Plaid Cymru)

6.00 The Addams Family. Classic ghoulish humour based on the series of cartoons published in *New Yorker* magazine. (Ceefax) (851438)

6.25 DEF II begins with The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Adventures of streetwise young man living with relations in affluent California (931148)

6.50 Standing Room Only. Football magazine. Includes Celtic manager Liam Brady talking about his career and the modern game (757231)

7.30 Young Musician of the Year. Five musicians contest the piano final (428709)



Reading in an ancient tongue: a Falasha holy man (8.10pm)

8.10 Horizons Before Babylon.

CHOICE: There are some 5,000 languages in the world, but some linguists claim that they can be traced back to a handful of groups and ultimately to a single source. Christopher Lee's film reports on the language experts from the world Union, the United States and Israel to examine pronunciation, and the results still surround their efforts. To the lay person, the research seems surprisingly simple, being in many cases based on groups of words from many different tongues that have clear similarities. Linguists in the Soviet Union took the process back 15,000 years, postulating the existence of a language which was spoken across half the world's surface. From here the jump to a single language source is not a huge one, and biological and archaeological evidence tends to point the same way. (Ceefax) (s) (551761)

9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. Off-beat comedy sketches (s) (2780) 9.30 Ruby Takes a Trip. The brash Ruby Wax repays to California to follow the advice of shaman (r). (Ceefax) (s) (772419)

10.40 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour party (772419)

11.35 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (558051)

12.00 Sam Weather (5883571)

12.10 Open University: The Gun Industry (4988804). Ends at 12.40

ITV

6.00 TV-am (6243696)

9.25 Lucy Ladders (s) (4876322) 9.35 Thames News (8557362)

10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject (280457)

10.40 This Morning. Magazine series (1674815)

12.10 Rosie and Jim. Children's puppet series (7509564)

12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Roesler. (Orade) Weather (8317877) 1.10 Thames News (24734728)

1.20 Home and Away. (Orade) (43108952) 1.50 A Country Practice (s) (55176436)

2.20 Yan Can Cook. Martin Yan prepares Shanghai duck salad and double prawns in spicy tomato sauce, and a range of garnishes (59208525) 2.50 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s) (8481457)

3.15 ITN News headlines (8176588) 3.20 Thames News headlines (5821411) 3.25 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in a large Australian city hospital (1423051)

3.55 Cartoon featuring Porky Pig (4458916) 4.00 Wall of the Banshee. Fantasy adventure series starring Michael Angelis and Susie Blause. (Orade) (s) (770343) 4.25 Chip 'n' Dale — Rescue Rangers. Cartoon (2939364) 4.50 Art Attack. Art show series presented by Neil Buchanan (5254815)

5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers. With Bob Hobson (8441612)

5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Orade) Weather (587273)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Orade) (761)

6.30 Thames News. (Orade) (572544)

6.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour party. (Orade) (173457)

7.00 The Magic Comedy Strip. Comedy and magic from Rudy Cobey, Terry Johnson, David Williamson and Joe Pasquale who are joined this week by illusionist John and Charlotte Pendragon (1457)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Orade) (525)



Open to the audience: Sue Lawley acts as host (8.00pm)

8.00 World in Action: The Granada 500 presented by Sue Lawley. Five hundred voters from Bolton, a town with two marginal seats, question party leaders (6631)

9.00 In Suspicious Circumstances.

CHOICE: Edward Woodward dusts down the files and re-opens the case of a popular boxer and the first woman to be hanged in Britain in the 20th century. Freddie Mills was briefly the world light heavyweight champion, went on to become a genial television personality and was found shot dead near his Soho nightclub in 1965. The verdict was suicide, but Mills's association with London gangland led many to suspect murder. Louise Mallet was convicted of killing her young son, but went to the gallows protesting her innocence. Dramatic reconstructions feature Michael Mills, late of *EastEnders*, as Mills and Michelle Newell as Mallet. If this playlets' main purpose is to raise a few laughs, then doing them, the series is on firm ground in reasoning that there is nothing like a mysterious death to arouse public curiosity. (Orade) (s) (5167)

10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Alastair Stewart. (Orade) Weather (79341) 10.30 Thames News (792273)

10.40 Film: Trapped in Silence (1986) starring Keifer Sutherland. A made-for-television drama, based on the book by psychologist Torey Hayden, about selective mutism, a condition in which people refuse to speak. Directed by Michael Tuchner (6885216)

12.30 Sportsworld Extra. Includes boxing, the British welterweight title eliminator between Samson Loughead and Tony Ebanks (496520)

1.30 Film: The Court Martial of George Armstrong Custer (1977) starring James Olson. A made-for-television what-might-have-been movie about the events after the massacre at Little Big Horn, which Custer survived only to be accused of allowing his men to be slaughtered. Directed by Michael Jordan (53945)

3.30 Reap the Whirlwind (s) (22465) 4.00 James Come Home. The Manchester band James in concert in their home town (72484)

5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson (32133). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Daily (8241426)

9.25 Film: The Phantom Light (1934), also starring Gordon Harker and Bonnie Hale. Comedy thriller about a light-eyed killer who helps the insurance investigator catch a gang of crooks operating on the Welsh coast. Directed by Michael Powell (5237725)

10.45 Hamilton in the Music Festival. A Hairs and Bachelors animation about a musical elephant (5397025)

11.00 Kingdoms of the Fast. A Survival documentary on the unusual animals that inhabit Hong Kong (s) (Teletext) (37544)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (254)

12.30 Business Daily presented by Susannah Smart (553171)

1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series (1413832)

2.00 Film: Tatters of the Sea (1955, b/w) starring Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Will Fyffe and Margaret Lockwood. Nautical drama about the 19th-century rivalry between steam and sailing ship owners. Directed by Frank Lord (17877) 3.45 The Hoarder. Canadian animation (5203018)

4.00 Flowering Passions. Anna Pavord meets the man trying to breed the perfect rose (r) (Teletext) (254)

4.15 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s) (14381)

5.00 The Late Late Show. Music and chat from Dublin, hosted by Gay Byrne (1070)

6.00 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy (r) (Teletext) (1631)

6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guest is actor Robin Williams (s) (563)

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zainab Salari. (Teletext) Weather (214167)

7.50 Voters. Four Unilever construction workers discuss general election issues (4669564)

8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside (Teletext) (5419)

8.30 Evening Shade. Comedy series set in small-town America starring Burt Reynolds as the local school's football coach (s) (7294)



Inside view: members of Hackney police force (9.00pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: Copper. CHOICE: Copper in East London is described in this film as Britain's most notorious police district. For years officers have faced allegations of malpractice. Scotland Yard is currently investigating accusations of corruption and drug dealing by local officers. The Hackney Community Defence Association has published documents on 30 officers and is pursuing 25 actions against the police in the civil courts. The police retort that they are trying to do the best against heavy odds in a violent and impoverished inner-city area whose streets are rife with crime, drugs and prostitution. Paul Greengrass's documentary presents an inside view of the Hackney force and their accusers. It includes the first television footage of an internal police complaints hearing. The film tries to illuminate without racialising sides, revealing an accumulation of antagonism and mistrust which will be desperately hard to break down (1709)

10.00 Northern Exposure. Comedy starring Rob Morrow as a New York doctor working in a remote Alaskan village (s) (4836)

11.00 Timewipe III: Rituals of Love. Silent series made by film-makers and video artist from around the world (s) (379883)

11.45 Midnight Special presented by Sheena McDonald. Includes a party political broadcast by the Labour party (201070)

1.45am Tonight with Jonathan Ross. As 6.30pm (s) (84378) Ends at 2.15

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TSW
As London except: 2.00pm-2.50pm Granada 500 presented by Sue Lawley (s) (8441457) 2.50-3.15 The Young Doctor (s) (8441622) 3.25-3.35 Anytime (s) (8441623) 3.45-4.00 Home and Away (1424780) 5.10-5.45 Families (s) (8441624) 6.00-7.00 The Young Doctors (s) (8441625) 7.15-7.30 McCloud: A Little Plot at Tranquill Valley (1151524)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 2.00pm-2.50pm Granada 500 presented by Sue Lawley (s) (8441457) 2.50-3.15 The Young Doctor (s) (8441622) 3.25-3.35 Anytime (s) (8441623) 3.45-4.00 Home and Away (1424780) 5.10-5.45 Families (s) (8441624) 6.00-7.00 The Young Doctors (s) (8441625) 7.15-7.30 McCloud: A Little Plot at Tranquill Valley (1151524)

S4C
Starts 6.00am C4 Sat: 12.41-12.50 Film: The Phantom Lamp (1934) 12.50-1.40 Summer (s) (5095192) 1.50-2.00 The Young Doctor (s) (8441625) 2.25-2.50 Families (s) (8441626) 2.50-3.15 Sons and Daughters (s) (8441627) 3.25-3.35 The Young Doctor (s) (8441628) 3.45-4.00 Home and Away (1424780) 5.10-5.45 Granada 500 (s) (8441629) 6.00-7.00 The Young Doctor (s) (8441630) 7.15-7.30 McCloud: A Little Plot at Tranquill Valley (1151524) 8.00-8.30 The Hit Man and Her (1255687)

TWS
As London except: 2.00pm-2.50pm Coast to Coast (s) (5520652) 2.50-3.15 Families (s) (8441625) 3.25-3.35 Sons and Daughters (s) (8441626) 3.45-4.00 Home and Away (1424780) 5.10-5.45 Families (s) (8441627) 6.00-7.00 The Young Doctor (s) (8441628) 7.15-7.30 McCloud: A Little Plot at Tranquill Valley (1151524) 8.00-8.30 The Hit Man and Her (1255687)

HTV WEST
As London except: 2.00pm-2.50pm Coast to Coast (s) (5520652) 2.50-3.15 Sons and Daughters (s) (8441626) 3.25-3.35 Families (s) (8441627) 3.45-4.00 Home and Away (1424780) 5.10-5.45 Families (s) (8441628) 6.00-7.00 The Young Doctor (s) (8441629) 7.15-7.30 McCloud: A Little Plot at Tranquill Valley (1151524) 8.00-8.30 The Hit Man and Her (1255687)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm Wales at Six (s) (8452212) 6.25-6.35 Prime Time (s) (8452213) 6.45-7.00 The Hit Man and Her (1255687)

TVN
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (s) (8441625) 5.50-6.15 Families (s) (8441626) 6.25-6.55 Sons and Daughters (s) (8441627) 6.55-7.00 The Young Doctor (s) (8441628) 7.15-7.30 McCloud: A Little Plot at Tranquill Valley (1151524) 8.00-8.30 The Hit Man and Her (1255687)

ITV
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (s) (8441625) 5.50-6.15 Families (s) (8441626) 6.25-6.55 Sons and Daughters (s) (8441627) 6.55-7.00 The Young Doctor (s) (8441628) 7.15-7.30 McCloud: A Little Plot at Tranquill Valley (1151524) 8.00-8.30 The Hit Man and Her (1255687)

RADIO 3
6.35am Weather: News

7.00 Northern Concerto: Dukka (La Perle) (D. Op 76 No 7); Janácek (Ode to the Sea); Brahms (Intimate Letters); Kodály (Dances of Marosszék); Kodály (Saraband); Suite (Spacusz); Suite (Nagyfazék); Suite (Kisfazék); Shostakovich (Festive Overture) 8.30 News

8.35 Composers of the Weeks: Richard Strauss and the Third Reich; P. I. Tchaikovsky; Schubert; Schubert; Schubert; Schubert; Sch